

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 25

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2014

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

GOT A **NEWS TIP?**

TEL: **235-6397**
235-2440

FAX: **235-3740**

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With 11 months to go before the transition period ends, do you support extending the CW program for foreign workers by 5 more years?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE

WORLD



A 10th-grade student with two rifles kills his teacher and a policeman.

► **PAGE 16**

FOCUS



Are you ready for death? Resolve to get your affairs in order.

► **PAGE 17**

LIFE & STYLE



Jay Leno's 22-year "Tonight Show" run draws to a close Thursday.

► **PAGE 19**

Wiseman: PPA void from the start

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Wiseman

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued yesterday an order finding that then-governor Benigno R. Fitial did not have the authority to suspend Commonwealth Utilities Corp. procurement rules and that the power purchase agreement Fitial entered with the Saipan Development LLC is void *ab initio* (from the beginning).

See **WISEMAN** on **Page 4**

'Victory for the people of CNMI'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), the original force behind a taxpayers' lawsuit against a \$190.8-million sole-sourced power purchase agreement between former governor Benigno R. Fitial and Saipan Development LLC, said that yesterday's court order finding the 25-year PPA void from the beginning is "a victory for the people of

the Commonwealth."

"This lawsuit has never been only to impeach Fitial but more importantly, to protect the interests of the CNMI people. The victory belongs to the people of the Commonwealth, not me, because I was only representing them," Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued yesterday a 26-

See **VICTORY** on **Page 4**

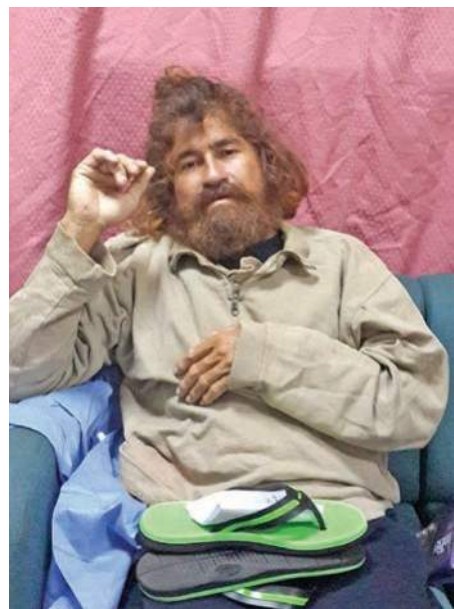
Man says he ate birds, turtles in 13 months adrift

NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—It's a story that almost defies belief: A man leaves Mexico in December 2012 for a day of shark fishing and ends up surviving 13 months on fish, birds and turtles before washing ashore on the remote Marshall Islands thousands of miles (kilometers) away.

But that's what a man identifying himself as 37-year-old Jose Salvador Alvarenga

See **MAN** on **Page 4**



AP

In this Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 photo provided by the Marshall Islands Foreign Affairs Department, a man identifying himself as 37-year-old Jose Salvador Alvarenga sits on a couch in Majuro in the Marshall Islands, after he was rescued from being washed ashore on the tiny atoll of Ebon in the Pacific Ocean.



SAIPAN STOP

The Crystal Serenity called in at the Port of Saipan before 8am yesterday morning with over 1,000 passengers and 1,000 crewmembers on board. It is in the initial part of an 89-day world tour that will also have stops in Japan, other Asian countries, Africa, and Europe.

MARK RABAGO

See story on **Page 2**

1,000 ELECTRONIC GAME LICENSES ANNUALLY

Emergency regs on e-gaming out

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The emergency regulations for electronic gaming operations on Saipan are now in effect, but investor Strategic Gaming Solutions Inc.

said yesterday the rules are "too restrictive" and go far beyond the provisions

» **Investor says rules 'too restrictive'**

of the two-month-old law, including responding to a request for proposal for the award of 10 electronic game site operator licenses

that cost \$100,000 each license or 1

percent of net gaming revenues.

"They are too restrictive and can be challenged in court. They go beyond the scope of the law. We will further review the emergency regulations and hopefully the permanent regulations would consider our comments," Stra-

See **EMERGENCY** on **Page 4**

Paul Ryan: Immigration legislation unlikely in 2014. PAGE 2
MPLT: 14 home loan accounts in 'serious delinquency' status. PAGE 5

Local

Paul Ryan: Immigration legislation unlikely in 2014

WASHINGTON (AP)—Days after House Republicans unveiled a roadmap for an overhaul of the nation's broken immigration system, one of its backers said legislation is unlikely to pass during this election year.

Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said distrust of President Barack Obama runs so deep in the Republican caucus that he's skeptical the GOP-led House would pass any immigration measure. He said a plan that puts security first could only pass if lawmakers believe the administration would enforce it—an unlikely prospect given Republicans'

deep opposition to Obama.

"This isn't a trust-but-verify, this is a verify-then-trust approach," Ryan said.

Last week, House Republicans announced their broad concerns for any immigration overhaul but emphasized they would tackle the challenge bill-by-bill. Immigration legislation is a dicey political question for the GOP. The party's conservative base opposes any measure that would create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants living here illegally, but many in the party worry that failing to act could drive many voters to Democratic candidates. In 2012,

Obama won re-election with the backing of 71 percent of Hispanic voters and 73 percent of Asian voters. The issue is important to both blocs.

Republicans have preemptively been trying to blame the White House for immigration legislation's failure, even before a House bill comes together. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said "there's a lot of distrust of this administration in implanting the law." And Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., last week warned

that distrust of Obama would trump the desire to find a solution for the estimated 11 million people living in the United States illegally.

"We just don't think government will enforce the law anyway," Rubio said, recounting conversations he's had with fellow Republicans.

House Republicans are pushing a piecemeal approach to immigration that puts a priority on security before considering a pathway for those here illegally to earn citizenship. That strat-

egy runs counter to a comprehensive bill, passed through the Senate seven months ago with bipartisan support, that includes a long and difficult pathway to citizenship.

The White House, meanwhile returned to its position that any legislation must include a way for those living here illegally to earn citizenship and that the system cannot divide Americans into two classes—citizens and noncitizens.

"We ought to see a pathway to citizenship for people," White House chief of staff Denis McDonough said Sunday. "We don't want to have a per-

manent separation of classes or two permanent different classes of Americans in this country."

Last week, Obama suggested that he's open to a legal status for immigration that falls short of citizenship, hinting he could find common ground with House Republicans.

"I'm going to do everything I can in the coming months to see if we can get this over the finish line," Obama said Friday.

Obama's flexibility was a clear indication of the president's desire to secure an elusive legislative achievement before voters decide in the fall

See RYAN on Page 4

1K aboard *Crystal Serenity* visit Saipan, Tinian

Crystal Serenity called on the Port of Saipan early yesterday morning with more than 1,000 of its passengers disembarking and taking tours of Saipan and Tinian.

Pacific Development Inc. director Gordon Marciano said the passengers were made up of Americans, Canadians, Australians, Europeans, and Japanese. The *Crystal Serenity* also is manned by a crew of around 1,000.

There were also a handful of war veterans aboard, including a couple that saw action in the Battle of Saipan—Lloyd Glick of the USS *Indianapolis* and Lt. Herbert N. Rosen of the medical ship *Whedbey*, which collected leapers from Micronesia that were brought to the U.S. Navy colony for Hansen's disease on Tinian.

Pacific Micronesia Tours was the ground-handler for *Crystal Serenity* for Saipan, while PDI took care of the tours on Tinian.

Marciano said the over 1,000 passengers of the cruise ship were split into two groups for a tour of Saipan, which included a visit to the American Memorial Park Visitors Center to watch the 20-minute documentary "Island Called Saipan."

The passengers also toured popular tourist sites including Bird Island Lookout, Banzai Cliff, Sugar King Park, the old Japanese hospital, the old Japanese jail, Agingan Point, and a number of beaches that American forces landed on during World War II.

On Tinian, 35 passengers of the cruise ship took the 15-minute flight aboard Star Marianas and were treated by a tour that was conducted by local historian Don Farrell.

The group visited the island's invasion beaches, the famous atomic bomb pits, and North Field runways, among others. The highlight of the



The 820-foot *Crystal Serenity* docked at the Port of Saipan yesterday bringing in over 1,000 tourists to Saipan and Tinian.

MARK RABAGO

From trumpet to war guns, a veteran honored

A 90-year-old World War II veteran who last came to the CNMI when he was just 19 during the Battle of Saipan is back on the islands, this time as a tourist aboard the cruise ship *Crystal Serenity*.

Lloyd Glick, who is visiting Saipan with his wife, Judy, was warmly welcomed to the island with a presentation of the American flag and a medallion at the American Memorial Park yesterday morning.

Chief ranger Jason Beatty presented Glick with the flag and a certificate of recognition, while the medallion was presented by Veterans Affairs Office director Vicente Camacho. Walt F.J. Goodridge, a writer,

gave Glick a special surprise—Glick's autobiography.

The flag that was given was flown on June 15, 2004, at the time of then-governor Juan N. Babauta. The medallion is in recognition and appreciation of veterans who served during the war; it features the WWII War in the Pacific emblem on the front side and the official seals of the branches of service on the other.

Glick, a modest man, said he doesn't deserve the medallion and that, if he could, he would give it to his fellow fallen soldiers.

Glick's first visit to this part of the world was back in World War II aboard the USS *North Carolina*, where he was

a member of the ship's band as a musician second class, playing the trumpet. The USS *North Carolina* participated in the bombings of Saipan, Palau, Pohnpei, the Marshall Islands, and other islands in the region.

"About 12 miles out from Saipan, we used 16-inch guns and participated for several days by bombing the island and clearing out the land," said Glick.

After 71 years, Glick is happy to return to Saipan with his wife. "I am overwhelmed by the warmth and reception" that he was given after the presentations and award ceremony.

Crystal Serenity arrived on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014. It just came from Guam



MARK RABAGO

USS *Indianapolis* crewmember Lloyd Glick receives the CNMI Medallion of Service from Veterans Affairs Office director Vicente Camacho, left, while Glick's wife, Judy, looks on at the AMP Visitors Center theater.

and is now on its way to Japan.

Glick and his wife toured the island, viewing World War

II historical sites, and left later at noon of that day. (Jayson Camacho)

tour was a sumptuous island-style barbecue lunch at Chulu Beach that PDI and Tinian Fleming graciously organized.

Marciano said everyone had a great and memorable time during

their four-hour side trip to Tinian.

"Everybody had fun. Some of these guys who went to Tinian never expected island hospitality like that. They said they never visited a place with people that

are so kind, generous, and very accommodating."

The *Crystal Serenity* began leaving the Port of Saipan around 5pm. It is in the initial part of an 89-day world tour

that will also have stops in Japan, other Asian countries, Africa, and Europe.

Crystal Serenity is a cruise ship owned by the cruise line Crystal Cruises. *Crystal Seren-*

ity was built in 2003 in STX Europe in St. Nazaire, France. She operates together with her older sister ship, *Crystal Symphony*, offering round-the-world voyages. (Mark Rabago)

'Human trafficking is 2nd largest criminal industry in world'

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal activity in the world, according to U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco, and she is asking communities around Micronesia to help curb this rising menace.

"After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms trade as the second largest criminal industry in the world and it is the fastest growing," Limtiaco told members of the Rotary Club of Saipan at its meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Unlike illegal drugs and the illegal arms trade, human trafficking has a reusable commodity that criminal individuals or organizations can reuse time and again, she said.

"When we talk about human trafficking, what is the product? Human beings. So what happens from a business perspective is you have traffickers who say 'wait a minute, here's a very profitable way for me to conduct an enterprise here... I have

a product that I can use over and over again. I can take the victim, the human being, and reuse, resell my product over and over again [and] I make a lot of money, I certainly don't have to expend the amount of resources that I do compared to just trafficking drugs.' And that is a great business venture for the trafficker," explained Limtiaco.

She told Rotarians to keep in mind that human trafficking is a huge industry and—like all criminal activities—greed and money is its bottom line.

Hot spots

Some of the places of business that human trafficking can be prevalent include massage parlors or therapeutic massage establishments, brothels, strip clubs, karaoke clubs, gentlemen clubs, or escort services.

With regards to labor trafficking, she said common jobs that they see this happening include people who are brought in as domestic help, nannies, maids, people working in sweatshop factories, janitorial-like positions or jobs, construction sites, farms,

restaurants, and those who are recruited to do panhandling.

On the latter, Limtiaco said, criminal minds often go the extreme to make their victims become more effective panhandlers.

"What has been found are perfectly healthy individuals who are intentionally maimed, harmed, or injured in some way so they can appear to be more sympathetic to the public. So they are intentionally blinded or have some limb cut off so they can entice more people to give money."

Fighting back

In an effort to combat human trafficking Limtiaco said her office has created Strategies for Justice.

"This is an initiative that began in our district in Guam and the Northern Marianas and the rationale behind this is community stakeholders coming together, talking about our very diverse communities, talking about our limited resources, our unique and remote location, and financial constraints. Because of this we also recognize the need to look beyond our borders and

understand other island-nations who are our neighbors who also have similar challenges and that we need to work together to combat human trafficking."

Limtiaco said there have been steps and efforts taken to communicate, cooperate, and collaborate with other Pacific

island nations in the form of training, sharing investigative resources, and creating victim services to help prevent human trafficking in the region.

"This is how we come together so we can truly have what we consider a Pacific regional response to combat human traf-

ficking. Please know this is a very real initiative and program and there have been steps taken not only to conduct these types of training opportunities or projects and programs between Guam and the Northern Marianas but we have traveled out to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and American Samoa, working with all of our partners."

Over 1,200 apply for SHEFA grants for spring semester

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program has received a total of 1,235 applications for this spring 2014 semester. Of this total, 303 are new students, 80 are returning, and 852 are ongoing students.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa disclosed that the bulk of applications for this new term are from college and university students here and abroad totaling 1,210.

There were also 25 applications filed by students of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute: three for automotive, one for construction, four for culinary arts, five for electrical, eight for hotel and restaurant management, and four for mechanic students.

Of the 1,210 applications from college and university students, 382 are from off-island recipients and 853 are from students enrolled at the Northern

Marianas College.

Rasa disclosed that, as of Jan. 24, her office has approved 144 applications and certified a total of \$257,200 in financial assistance for them.

The number of denied applications so far is 74 while 634 applications are pending, awaiting supporting documents that are due end of this month.

She disclosed that SHEFA has a remaining budget of about \$1.1 million from fiscal year 2013 that will be used for this spring 2014 semester.

SHEFA was created in 2004 and its funding comes from poker license fees collected by the government. Scholarship programs under SHEFA include grant-in-aid, field of study, and incentive awards. For the fiscal year 2014, the program is budgeted at \$3 million.

Meantime, Rasa disclosed that as of January, SHEFA has collected a total of \$8,157 from its defaulted scholars.

"SHEFA will meet with a

few collections agencies and/or get legal advice to aggressively collect from students who are in default. We want those in default to call us, email us, or visit our office and we could work with them and figure out a payment plan," according to Rasa.

Based on the SHEFA policy and regulation, repayment is required of grant recipients who default on their scholarship by failing to return to the CNMI after graduating from college.

The CNMI government has been spending a substantial amount in financial aid to its scholars here and abroad, totaling \$21.291 million in the nine-year span since the program was created in 2004.

NMC eyes incentives for 'full time' students

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at Northern Marianas College who enroll in 15 or more credits in the fall semester may be granted incentives as a way to encourage more enrollees to become "full time" students.

Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that NMC is looking for ways that will encourage students to take the new full-time credit requirement—enrolling in at least 15 credits per semester—to improve their chances of completing their degree programs.

To do this, she said the college will look at different ways to provide incentives, including financial benefits.

At NMC, a student carrying 12 or more credits in the fall or spring semester is considered a "full time student."

NMC is also reviewing the

number of credits that are required to complete a degree program at NMC and will be recommending adjustments where they are appropriate, Merfalen said.

She disclosed that NMC has set up an ad hoc committee to review and evaluate NMC's tuition and fees to explore the possibility of a banded tuition structure. A banded tuition structure involves a set price for students enrolling for classes within an identified range of credits.

"We are also looking at ways to reduce the number of students who place in remedial levels of math and English," added Merfalen.

The college's data show that, similar to trends occurring at community colleges in the nation, many students do not graduate on time. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, only 1 in 10 students complete their two-year degrees within two years.

According to Merfalen, there are drawbacks to students extending the time they take to earn their degrees.

"First, it is more costly. According to the College Board, an extra semester of college costs about \$1,500 for the typical two-year college student," said Merfalen.

Secondly, as students progress along their education journey, other factors come up that may affect their studies the longer they are in school. These include, but are not limited to, new careers, family obligations, and financial commitments.

The dean said that NMC's work in helping students accelerate the time it takes to earn their degree is part of the institution's commitment to the challenge posed by "Complete College America," a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the number of Americans with quality career certificates or college degrees.

US territories get 400-pct. increase in home energy aid program grants

Low-income households in the CNMI and other U.S. territories will soon receive more energy assistance as a result of a 400-percent increase in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, grant that the Department of Health and Human Services officially announced last week.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said territorial delegates have worked on a higher LIHEAP grant for over two years.

"Each territory gets a 400-percent increase. That means \$214,000 to help low-income households in the Northern Marianas. Funding had been

frozen since 1984, despite increases in the cost of electricity in the islands," Sablan said.

He said the territorial delegates were able to convince DHHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to use her administrative authority to increase the LIHEAP territorial set-aside from 0.135 to 0.5 percent.

"Her decision is well-justified: Poverty levels in the U.S. territories are three to five times the national average and the price of electricity is two to four times higher. The Commonwealth's Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which distributes the LIHEAP funds to eligible households

in the Marianas, has said it is working on how the increased benefits will be distributed," Sablan added.

LIHEAP grants can be used to pay for electricity, make home improvements that save energy, and, in a crisis, prevent service interruptions.

As many as 300 families in the CNMI have, in recent years, received up to \$58 in monthly assistance from the federal program.

With the increased LIHEAP grant, the number of CNMI families who are eligible and the monthly aid amount can significantly increase. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-018

Marpi Public Cemetery Lawn Care Service Marpi, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider are soliciting sealed bids for the Marpi Public Cemetery Lawn Care Service, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 9:00AM ChST at the project site in Marpi, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST February 7, 2014 to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions will be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB14-GOV-018, Marpi Public Cemetery Lawn Care Service". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST February 24, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST February 24, 2014 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 24, 2014 and must be received no later than March 5, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST March 6, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST February 24, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DPA CAR MART
We Buy Used Cars
287-8688

BW CAR RENTAL
Starting at \$40/day • \$600/month
287-2727

Businesswoman suing Quichocho, wife takes witness stand

The Korean businesswoman who filed a racketeering lawsuit against lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife took the witness stand yesterday in the ongoing jury trial at the federal court.

Jung Ja Kim testified that Quichocho used to serve as her counsel, while Quichocho's wife, Frances, performed under the Quichocho law office and the couple's company, Karissa LLC, which did document handling, business license renewal processing, and other services.

Kim said the Quichochos refused to pay her \$21,077.42 for

rental of their law office space and an apartment unit on the second floor of her building in San Jose.

She testified that when the Quichochos left the building between January and February 2010, the couple took the appliances, furniture, and other items—all worth about \$23,500—that she provided them.

Kim said the couple did not return the keys to the apartment and law office space to her.

Kim recounted that she had two units on the second floor of the building renovated in 2007 for Quichocho's law office and

converted another unit into an apartment for the couple.

At that time, she said, Quichocho represented her and her company.

Kim said the lease for the law office space should have been \$800 monthly but she gave it to them for only \$400.

She said Quichocho's law office prepared their lease agreement, but it was her former husband who signed the document on behalf of her company.

In summary, she said the Quichochos failed to pay rent totaling \$10,993.55 for the law office space and \$10,083.87 for

the apartment unit.

Kim also testified how terrified she was when her former husband, S.B. Choi, came back from Korea and harassed her for money and property.

Because of the harassment and other business problems, Kim said she became severely depressed in 2008 and even failed to attend a court hearing once because she could not sleep and could not get up.

Kim will continue her testimony this morning, Wednesday.

She is represented by attorney Robert T. Torres. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

VICTORY

From Page 1

page order finding that Fitial, as governor in 2012, did not have the authority to suspend Commonwealth Utilities Corp. procurement regulations and that the PPA that Fitial entered with Delaware-based SDLLC is void *ab initio*.

Maratita, who had been one of the lawmakers subjected to political harassment at the time the impeachment process against Fitial was underway, said she's "very pleased" and "happy" about the court ruling, which she said would have subjected present and future generations to much costlier power rates.

The \$190.8-million PPA was among the key issues comprising the articles of impeachment against Fitial, along with the temporary release of a prisoner to give him a massage at his private residence in the wee hours of the morning, and an award of a sole-source ARRA management contract, among other things.

Maratita said the sentiments of the people and the court ruling on the taxpayers' lawsuit against the PPA "should serve as lesson to every government official" that entering into agreements on behalf of the people should be done in a transparent manner.

Along with then minority leader and now House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and others, Maratita was one of those who voted "yes" to impeach Fitial for corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Fitial stepped down as governor days before the Senate was to start his impeachment trial, after the House successfully moved the impeachment process to the Senate. Fitial is the first governor in the CNMI or any U.S. territory to resign as a result of an impeachment process.

Acting Senate president Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who joined Maratita as co-plaintiff in the

taxpayers' lawsuit against the PPA, separately said yesterday he's "pleased" and "ecstatic" about the court ruling.

"There's no question the PPA was a factor in the impeachment of Fitial and more importantly, the PPA, if it's pursued, would do more harm than good to the CNMI and its people," Yumul said.

Yumul, now Senate floor leader, also gives Maratita most of the credit "for pushing this issue forward."

He said if it were not for Maratita's perseverance, the CNMI might have been bound by a questionable sole-sourced power purchase agreement for 25 years.

"For years, I have been raising the concern about Fitial's declaration of emergency for CUC. He's been using as reasons for the emergency the following: government agencies' inability to pay CUC, lack of a board of directors, lack of manpower for CUC, and renewable energy crisis. All of them are solvable. And why use renewable energy crisis when we didn't have renewable energy in the first place? He was planning and conniving the whole time for a PPA, and it was diesel generation when we're supposed to be leaning toward renewable energy," Yumul said.

In yesterday's ruling, Wiseman determined that applicable regulations were not followed in executing the power purchase agreement with SDLLC which, in turn, sued CUC in federal court over the voided PPA.

Fitial and then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed the PPA on Aug. 3, 2012. The power purchase agreement was kept secret, except for a few individuals in government, until the media got hold of a copy of the agreement while Fitial was off-island for a political event and after Buckingham fled the CNMI after he was served with a penal summons to appear in court.

EMERGENCY

From Page 1

tegic Gaming Solutions Inc. president Juan "Pan" Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the emergency regulations, only 1,000 electronic game licenses are to be issued annually.

No more than 100 electronic game licenses may be active in a single electronic game facility, based on the emergency regulations.

No electronic games in the CNMI may have a "manufacturing date" before Jan. 1, 2012, the emergency regulations add. This means the date

the electronic game was initially assembled by the original manufacturer.

The emergency regulations provide structure for the implementation of Public Law 18-30 or the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Act of 2013 that Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed on Dec. 13, 2013.

The law amends the definition of gambling device "to exclude electronic gaming."

Under the law, electronic gaming machines are allowed only in hotels on Saipan with at least 100 rooms or, if they have fewer than 100 rooms, should be attached to a golf course.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the elec-

tronic gaming bill that became law, said yesterday he has yet to fully review the emergency regulations that are now published in the *Commonwealth Register*.

As established by law, the annual licensing fee for each electronic game used in the CNMI is \$2,500 paid at the issuance of the license, or 15 percent of the net gaming revenues paid monthly, whichever is greater.

Lawmakers approved the electronic gaming legislation, citing the need to generate new revenues to meet the government's growing obligations including meeting the annual minimum payment to the Retirement Settlement Fund.

WISEMAN

From Page 1

In a 26-page order granting CUC's motion for partial summary judgment, Wiseman ruled that, while Fitial had the authority to declare a state of disaster emergency after determining that CUC was unable to provide utilities to the public, he did not have the authority to suspend procurement regulations that bound the CUC executive director and CUC board of directors.

Wiseman determined that the regulations were not followed in the execution of the power purchase agreement.

A status conference will be held on Feb. 13, 2014, at 1:30pm, at which time the parties are directed to be prepared to discuss their position on further procedures in this case.

Fitial and then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed the power purchase agreement on Aug. 3, 2012, to build a new power plant on Saipan.

The allegedly secretive signing of the no-bid, 25-year \$190.8 million agreement was one of the issues that led to the filing of impeachment charges against Fitial, who subsequently resigned as governor.

Prior to this, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas wrote Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC in January last year to inform it that his predecessor, Buckingham, made a mistake in indicating that the PPA and related agreements were suffi-

cient as to form and legal capacity. San Nicolas pointed out that the PPA and related agreements were void from the beginning.

The state Senate, Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan), and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan) are suing Fitial, San Nicolas, CUC, and SDLLC over the PPA and sought a preliminary injunction to stop it.

Wiseman granted the preliminary injunction on Aug. 31, 2012. The injunction bars all the defendants, except SDLLC, from performing on the PPA and all associated agreements.

In July 2013, CUC, through counsel Deborah Fisher, moved for a partial summary judgment on the basis that the PPA is illegal and void from the beginning because it did not meet the procurement regulations controlling such transactions. Maratita and Yumul later joined CUC's motion for partial summary judgment.

SDLLC, through counsel William Fitzgerald, opposed the motion. Fitzgerald argued that the PPA was validly executed by CUC and signed by the acting CUC director; that CUC is bound by its agents' actions and is stopped from arguing that Fitial lacked actual authority to execute the PPA; and that SDLLC relied upon representation of its highest officials of the CNMI.

Wiseman heard the motion on Sept. 19, 2013.

In his order yesterday, Wiseman said he finds the PPA void *ab initio* because the procurement regulations could not have

been suspended before Fitial's executive order declaring a disaster emergency was in effect.

Wiseman determined that the regulations requiring the signatures of CUC's executive director or comptroller were not followed.

The judge also determined that Fitial did not have the authority to enter into the Development Agreement in the absence of the approval of CUC's executive director or comptroller.

The Development Agreement, among other things, "authorized SDLLC to immediately proceed, without the need for further approvals, with the development of the power plant on an urgent basis."

Wiseman said he finds the Development Agreement to be improper and facially invalid, and that CUC is not bound by its terms purporting to obligate CUC to enter into the PPA.

Wiseman said he finds AG San Nicolas' opinion to be persuasive authority that explicitly supports the reasoning of his (judge's) decision.

CUC relied on San Nicolas' opinion in support of its motion.

Wiseman said he finds that summary judgment is appropriate to dispose of the legal issue presented by CUC's motion because SDLLC has not met its burden in convincing the court that a jury trial is necessary to reconcile a genuine dispute as to a material fact.

On compliance with CUC procurement regulations, Wiseman said there were no findings that SDLLC would be the only company able to provide

the necessary power in the accelerated time tables required by CUC, or that SDLLC would be able to provide power in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.

"Further, the PPA itself does not specify the unique capabilities SDLLC would provide, why those capabilities are required, and whether or not other sources of the unique capabilities were considered," he noted.

Wiseman said the procurement regulations applicable to contracts such as the PPA are designed to protect both the government agency or public corporation and the general public.

Wiseman said the need for checks and balances in industries such as power utilities is paramount due to the size of the projects and necessary agreements involved in completing them.

"Top-heavy leadership without routine and independent verification only increases the risk of improper or erroneous execution of contracts," he added.

This issue, the judge noted, is exacerbated when the highest government official from the Executive Branch attempts to suspend those regulations in order to enter into agreements that may be improper or detrimental to the public as a whole.

Wiseman said public policy considerations of ensuring the protection and benefit of government agencies or public corporations, as well as the public as a whole, are vital to the proper operation of procurement mechanisms in industries such as power utilities.

MAN

From Page 1

told the U.S. ambassador in the Marshall Islands and the nation's officials during a 30-minute meeting Monday before he was taken to a local hospital for monitoring. Alvarenga washed ashore on the tiny atoll of Ebon in the Pacific Ocean last week before being taken to the capital, Majuro, on Monday.

"It's hard for me to imagine someone surviving 13 months at sea," said Ambassador Tom Armbruster in Majuro. "But it's also hard to imagine how someone might arrive on Ebon out of the blue. Certainly this guy has

had an ordeal, and has been at sea for some time."

Other officials were reacting cautiously to the Spanish-speaking man's story while they try to piece together more information.

If true, the man's ordeal would rank among the greatest tales ever of survival at sea.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department says the man told Mexico's ambassador to the Philippines, Julio Camarena, that he set out from an area near the coastal town of Tonala in southern Chiapas state, which would mean his journey covered a distance of more than 6,500 miles (10,460 kilometers), if he drifted in a straight line.

a legitimate shot at grabbing the majority in the Senate.

McDonough said the White House remains optimistic that legislation that includes citizenship could reach the president's desk: "We feel pretty good that we'll get a bill done this year."

RYAN

From Page 2

whether to hand him even more opposition in Congress. Republicans are expected to maintain their grip on the House and have

MPLT: 14 home loan accounts in 'serious delinquency' status

The Marianas Public Land Trust's home loan portfolio has 14 accounts that are in serious delinquency status, which means they are behind in payments by 91 to 183 days.

Marvin Deleon Guerrero, the home loan administrator of Bank of Saipan, which has been contracted to handle MPLT's loan portfolio, disclosed that these accounts would soon be issued notices of last recourse. Failure to come in to settle their obligations will result in the referral of the bad accounts to the legal department.

Records presented to the MPLT board show that the 14 seriously delinquent accounts have a principal balance totaling to \$756,446, excluding unpaid late charges and accrued interests.

Of the 14 bad accounts, three accounts have passed 121 days while six accounts are aged 183 days. One account is behind by 152 days while four accounts are aged 91 days.

Accounts are in "good standing" if they are current in payments or within the 30-day delinquency period. Those labeled as "seriously delinquent" are

accounts beyond the 91-day to 121-day schedule.

Also notable in Guerrero's report is the increase in "current" accounts in the portfolio.

In October 2013, there were a total of 61 accounts that were deemed current, or 53 percent of the entire loan portfolio, which has 103 accounts. The 61 "current" accounts total \$2.674 million.

In November 2013, "current" accounts slightly went up to 65, or 58 percent. This totaled \$2.931 million. Come December, another jump in the number was noted when "current"

accounts increased to 73, or 68 percent of the entire portfolio, with then 104 accounts. This totaled to \$3.423 million.

A notable decline was noted in accounts that passed the 121 days schedule from October to December. "Seriously delinquent" accounts that aged 121 days totaled 24 in October. A significant decline was noted in November with total of 18 until December, when only 9 accounts aged 121 days were recorded.

Spike in collection

According to Deleon Guerrero,

home loan collections in calendar year 2013—from January to December 2013—totaled \$502,892, of which \$441,623 went to MPLT; \$39,684 went to Bank of Saipan as its fee; \$5,959 went to escrow; and \$15,625 went to insurance.

In the past 12-month period, Deleon Guerrero noted that the highest collection from the home loan portfolio was in October with \$98,259. November also showed a high collection of \$52,371 while December totaled \$46,948.

Board trustees believe that the spike in collections in these months were the result of the payouts received by government employees from their retirement contributions.

MPLT consultant Bruce MacMillan described the updates on delinquency accounts as "very impressive" citing the significant decline in the number of accounts in delinquency and the amounts owed by borrowers.

"That's really a strong shift. If we keep this up, we'll be able to reduce our allowance for bad debts even further and that's very positive. We're making a very significant progress in this quarter," said MacMillan, alluding to records in October to November 2013.

MPLT took over the handling of the home loan portfolio from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. since 2008 as part of a settlement agreement. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

Ex-UMDA CEO Wickline moves lawsuit to fed court

David L. Wickline, the former president and CEO of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc., has moved to the federal court a lawsuit the UMDA recently filed against him in the Superior Court.

Wickline, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, filed on Monday a notice of removal in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Thompson said that Wickline, who is now based in Occidental, California, received a copy of UMDA's complaint and summons last Jan. 14.

Thompson said this lawsuit may be removed to a federal court in that it is a civil action between citizens of different "states" and the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

Wickline served as the president and CEO of UMDA from 2010 to 2013. He also served those years as a member of the UMDA board of directors.

Thompson said the complaint alleges that Wickline "claims to be entitled to \$400,000 in severance pay, \$170,000 in unpaid housing allowance, and approximately \$30,000 in medical expenses."

The lawyer said the complaint also alleges that his client claims to be entitled to \$5,437,500 worth of stock options for shares of stock in UMDA, which the latter gave him in October 2010.

Thompson said the complaint alleges that Wickline has no right to additional compensation and has no right to UMDA

stock options.

"Accordingly, the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000," he pointed out.

In the lawsuit, UMDA seeks damages from Wickline for unlawful conduct and asks the court to declare various claims asserted by the defendant to be meritless.

UMDA filed the lawsuit after the company and Wickline were unable to resolve their disputes through mediation.

UMDA board chair Jose Lifofoi stated in a previous press statement that the board was dissatisfied with Wickline's performance as CEO so he was fired and the shareholders decided not to re-elect him to the board. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

CPA: 30-day eviction notice to stand after bankruptcy dismissal

The Commonwealth Ports Authority remains firm in its decision to evict Freedom Air from its premises once its ongoing bankruptcy case is resolved, according to CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama after a meeting Friday with the board of directors.

Due to the airline company's bankruptcy filing in September last year, the ports authority was barred from taking any action on the company's debt of over \$1.2 million.

"Because we issued an eviction notice and then they filed for bankruptcy, it prevented us from evicting them. If and when the court releases Freedom Air, then we will stand by the decision we made last

year—the 30-day eviction," said Lizama.

According to her, the U.S. Trustee earlier recommended to the court the dismissal of the bankruptcy case filed by the airline carrier.

"Once it is dismissed, the eviction notice will kick in," Lizama said.

Citing Freedom Air's financial losses, Lizama hinted that it may be difficult for the ports authority to collect the debts owed it.

The CPA board issued in August a 30-day eviction notice to Freedom Air due to its unpaid obligation of \$1.23 million in three years. On the day it was supposed to be evicted on Sept. 19, the board made a split decision to provide the airline com-

pany a 90-day reprieve, giving it until Dec. 31, 2013, to settle its debts.

However, in an unexpected turn of events, Freedom Air filed a bankruptcy petition on Sept. 27, which prevented the ports authority from enforce its decision.

The company filed the Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Guam, which allows the carrier to reorganize while it continues operation. Freedom Air has 120 days to reorganize itself under Chapter 11.

Saipan Tribune learned that Freedom Air is behind in PFC payment for Saipan amounting to \$273,500; Rota, \$148,392; and for Tinian, \$202,275. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-010

SAN ANTONIO AND GARAPAN SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewerline in San Antonio and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in Garapan and San Antonio area. The project is to replace approximately ± 1099 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 887 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, ± 374 LF of existing 15-inch ACP, existing concrete manhole repairs, 6-inch and 4-inch service laterals connection, wastewater by pass pumping and road restoration. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 5, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-010, San Antonio and Garapan Sewerline Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 05, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Brian Bearden, Senior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address brian.bearden@cucgov.org and Birhen Martinez, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Man, boy found adrift after being swept out to sea in Pacific

APRA HARBOR, Guam—A man and a young boy are safe after their 14-foot skiff was swept out to sea near an atoll in the South Pacific Sunday.

At 9:41am Monday, watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center received a report from Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by satellite of a skiff that had been swept out to sea due to high tide and poor weather near Namoluk Atoll, Chuuk. They reportedly had paddles, no motor, and minimal food aboard the vessel.

Sector Guam made notifications to Federated States of Micronesia Maritime Surveillance Advisor, FSM National Search and Rescue Coordinator, Chuuk Search and Rescue Liaison, U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei, and



the 14th Coast Guard District Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu.

Sector Guam identified and diverted two Automated-Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System vessels in the area.

A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu and a Navy P-8A Poseidon fixed-wing aircraft from Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan, were also launched to assist in the search.

The *Ocean Pegasus*, a 656-foot freight ship, and the 575-foot freight ship *Verdant Island* responded to the call for help and diverted at the request of the Coast Guard to assist in the search.

Tuesday morning the *Ocean Pegasus* located and safely rescued the 44-year-old man and

9-year-old boy. They remain aboard the *Ocean Pegasus*.

AMVER, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

The 14th Coast Guard District encompasses an area of 12.2 million square miles of the Central and South Pacific. Coast Guard aircraft based in Hawaii frequently travel thousands of miles in response to search and rescue and other calls for assistance. The Hercules is scheduled to be replaced by the HC-130J, which will bring increased capabilities to Coast Guard response across the Pacific. (*Coast Guard Sector Guam*)

CNMI Family Law Digest now freely available online



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family Court Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, center, with Michael Stanker, executive director of the Law Revision Commission, left, and *Family Law Digest* author James Zarones.

The Family Court Division of the Superior Court announced yesterday the release of a *Family Law Digest* containing all Commonwealth Supreme Court, Superior Court, Commonwealth Trial Court, and Trust Territory High Court case law. A “digest” is a legal reference book that organizes court cases by subject matter. The *Family Law Digest* takes all Commonwealth cases that discuss family law and organizes them by specific family law subjects. For example, subjects include adoption, alimony, and custody, to name a few.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who leads the Family Court Division, praised the author of the *Digest*, his former law clerk, James M. Zarones, for compiling the *Digest*—mostly on his own free time. Govendo expressed the hope and expectation that the *Digest* “will help local attorneys, the

courts, the Legislature, and the people of the Commonwealth understand and improve upon the family law of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

Zarones also included explanatory commentary to points of law where appropriate.

Zarones created the *Digest* to “trim attorney fees and court costs by reducing the amount of research time required for any given case.” In addition, Zarones hopes “that the Legislature will use the *Digest* when amending the Commonwealth’s family laws to make improvements.”

The *Digest*, created and made available as a public service to the Commonwealth, is distributed by the Law Revision Commission for free on its website.

To view the *Family Law Digest*, visit www.cnmilaw.org and navigate to the Judiciary link. If you have any questions contact the Law Revision Commission at 236-9820 or at cnmilaw@justice.gov.mp. (*NMI Judiciary*)

Man arrested for allegedly beating his wife

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man allegedly beat and choked his wife during the Lunar New Year celebration Friday night.

The suspect, Dejie Gong, 45, was arrested at the Saipan International Airport as he was about to leave the island. Gong is detained on charges of disturbing the peace, assault, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon and theft. He is being kept on a \$20,000 cash bail.

Police detective Isapen Bokuku stated in her report that police responded to a disturbance at the Travelers Lodge in Garapan on Jan. 31 at 4am.

The victim, a Chinese female, told the responding officer that she and her husband had an argument after he became upset that she was taking too long to cook dinner for the Lunar New Year.

Gong allegedly took a knife from the kitchen and threatened to kill her. The argument con-

tinued to the restroom where he swung the knife and it hit the tank lid on the toilet, causing it to crack. His wife then ran to her friend’s room, along with their 4-year-old daughter. Gong followed her and grabbed her arm, telling her to go back to their room. She refused, so Gong pulled his daughter’s legs but his wife held on to her daughter. The wife’s friend took Gong’s daughter and brought her to her room.

Gong then allegedly closed

the bedroom door and choked her on the bed with both hands. The wife tried to resist but Gong was too strong. The wife’s friend then came and pushed Gong away from his wife.

At about 11am Gong’s wife saw him leaving the Travelers Lodge in a taxicab. She knew he was heading to the airport because she saw Gong making changes on his flight back to China. The original departure date was set at Feb. 9, 2014. She then allegedly received a

text message from Gong stating that he will wait for her and their daughter in China and kill them and her family there.

The wife claimed that she then found out that Gong had taken her keys to their room and her money amounting to \$3,300.

Police arrested Gong at about 11:57am at the Saipan airport. His travel documents were seized and he appeared in court on Feb. 3, 2014. His next court appearance is on Feb. 24, 2014.

4-hour power outage on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, from 7:30am to 11:30am, that will affect the southern side of Gualo Rai.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize primary power lines for the safety of the CUC line crew as they replace rotted main primary power poles.

Water services may affect

the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected are the southern side of Gualo Rai (Pas Pl., Kulales Pl., Manachang Pl., Espana St., Deres Pl., Europa Pl., Cheribian Dr., Bayogu Ln., American Dr., Community Lp., Walumwo St., Beans Ave., Pumpkin St., and Uup Ln.), Quarter Master Rd.

(String Ct. and Tiigh Ct.)

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions. (*CUC*)

Guam schools could lose vending machines

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The superintendent of Guam public schools says vending machines could be removed from all campuses in an attempt to prevent break-ins.

The machines seem to have been targets in break-ins at two elementary schools and a high school on Wednesday night, Superintendent Joe Fernandez said.

“We’re probably going to move forward with getting all our schools to remove their vending machines and kind of get rid of those easy targets,” he said.

Burglars also rifled through desks and drawers, Deputy Superintendent Robb Malay said.

Guam police spokesman Officer A.J. Balajadia said vending machines at four other schools were also broken into last week.

Officials are still tallying the cost of the damage and stolen money, equipment and personal items, the Pacific Daily News reported.

Carbullido Elementary Principal Agnes Guerrero said vending-machine money and a camcorder were among the thefts at her school.

“It seems petty, like it’s just for a small amount of money in some of these instances,” Fernandez said. “But when you have a target like these, once they’re inside the school grounds, it makes it more likely that they’re going to try and see if other rooms are open -- and we just don’t want there to be such easy targets.”

Education officials plan to meet with lawmakers and police about increasing security at schools, Malay said.

The governor signed a law last year appropriating about \$800,000 to pay for school security systems. The education department is in the process of procuring \$500,000 worth of security equipment with federal funds. Three vendors submitted proposals as of last month.

Panel OKs 2 bills on drug test for candidates, elected officials

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Ju-

diary and Government Operations recommends passage of two separate bills related to mandatory drug testing—one

for those wanting to seek public office and the other, for those already elected to office.

The committee, chaired by

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), recommends passage of Rep. Roman C. Benavente's (Ind-Saipan)

House Bill 18-21 in its current form. The bill requires screening for illegal substances prior to running for public office.

The panel also recommends passage of Leon Guerrero's HB 18-152 with amendment. The bill requires mandatory drug testing of elected public officials.

The JGO Committee strengthens the penalty provision for elected public officials who fail to undergo drug testing or those who test positive for drug use, by imposing "immediate suspension of personal salary and personal benefits until such time as a favorable

test result is provided."

"Inconclusive results and the failure to undergo tests shall be subject to appeal and a re-test with the possibility for a retroactive adjustment. No official public funds to the political office shall be affected," the committee amendment reads.

The CNMI government has adopted alcohol and drug-free workplace policies but these policies do not apply to elected officials.

In the past, elected officials, including lawmakers, have figured in cases or reports of illegal drug use and sale.

6 Tinian beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six beach sites on Tinian and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beaches are the Unai Masalok Beach, Unai Dangkolo, Unai Babui, Unai Chulu, Leprosarium Beach 1, and Leprosarium Beach 2.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

The division analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian. For more

information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)



ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School JROTC cadets receive a cash award for winning the annual KHS essay contest at J's bowling alley on Jan. 31, 2014. The theme for the essay was "How does JROTC builds character and leadership?" First place went to C/2LT Angela Kereman, who received \$50 and her essay was forwarded to Cadet Command 8th Brigade headquarters in Fort Louis, Washington to compete with other high school JROTC units in the U.S. Second place went to C/SSG Benikina Lizama, who received \$25. There were two third place winners: C/1LT Agerico Siruma and C/SGT Nimei George, who received \$10 each. This ceremony was held at J's bowling alley during a KHS JROTC field trip where the entire battalion got to spend the day bowling to promote physical activity to stay fit. From left to right: C/SGT Nimei George, C/SSG Benikina Lizama, C/2LT Angela Kereman, C/1LT Agerico Siruma, and KHS Senior Army Instructor MSG James Burke.

Ayuda Foundation to launch 'Operation Sewing Basket'

The Ayuda Foundation will open Operation Sewing Basket, a program to provide tailoring fabrics and equipment to teach sewing skills to young women in Chuuk. Chuuk, like many island nations, is grappling with a high teen pregnancy rate and a low level of school attendance.

Chuuk's political and social leaders wish to teach young women skills that will increase their earning ability, their learning skills and enable

them to lift themselves and their families above the poverty level, to become business owners, to become taxpayers, to become thoughtful voters and to become leaders in their own community.

Kiki Stinnet, president of the Chuuk Women's Council, has received a grant to purchase sewing machines and has acquired a building to house the training, but materials and fabric are so expensive in FSM that

she has requested The Ayuda Foundation to ask for excess fabrics and sewing equipment, i.e., bias tape, curtains, drapes, fabric scraps, flat fabric, gathered skirts, lace pieces, lining materials, needles, pin cushions, ribbon, ric rac, scissors, sewing baskets/boxes, sewing machine needles, straight pins, tape measures, thimbles, thread, transparent tape.

The Ayuda Foundation is not requesting the donation of used clothing; it is requesting only those items that can be spread flat to be cut and assembled into children's garments and handicrafts.

If you have further questions, you may contact Jennie LeonGuerrero, projects manager, Ayuda foundation at 473-3003. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MINA to hold special general membership meeting

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will hold a special general membership meeting on Feb. 13, 2014, at 5:30pm at the MINA conference room, Gualo Rai Center, Suite 103. The purpose for the meeting is to discuss and vote on the recommended merger between the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Pacific Marine Resource Institute. Projected meeting time is 30 minutes. (MINA)

Free business training seminar

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will hold a free business training seminar on Saipan called "How to start a business in 2014." The workshop will be held on Feb. 7, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the second floor of the Family Building in Garapan. Online registration: PISBDN.ECENTERDIRECT.COM or call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

Family grief support meeting on Feb. 6

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 322-3425 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

ROTA PROPERTY FOR AUCTION



LOT NO. 345 R 246, located in Sinapalo, Rota, 909 square meters, concrete residence - 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom up for auction through a judicial foreclosure action.

AUCTION DATE:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

PLACE:

D'Torres Building, Garapan, Entranceway to Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger

CONTACT MICHELINE BREL at
670-235-8060 or michbrel@hotmail.com
FOR MORE DETAILS.

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

I, Rajkumar son of Nanak Ram, my wife Sapna Devi, my daughter Riya with mailing address P.O. Box 505782 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. Will do a name change effective February 04, 2014 and will be recognize as Rajkumar Nathrani, Sapna Nathrani, and Riya Nathrani.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF
JULIAN APOLLONIUS
OLOPAI PELLEGRINO
and PRUNELLA
LEIMOPE OLOPAI
PELLEGRINO,
minor children.

by: **MILAGROS P. PELLEGRINO**
Petitioner.

FCD GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 14-0054

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Milagros P. Pellegrino, has petitioned the above Court to appoint her as the guardian of the person, ad litem and estate of Julian Apollonius O. Pellegrino and Prunella Leimope O. Pellegrino, minor children.

The hearing on this petition has been set before the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the 20th day of March, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter as the matter can be heard.

Any person who has objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

SO ORDERED this 31ST day of January, 2014.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 13-0034
vs.)
JUAN J. TOMOKANE) **NOTICE OF**
and LISA L. SANTOS,) **AUCTION and**
Defendants.) **JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 24th day of May, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **19th day of February, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 379, containing an area of 825 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 07 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4415, dated December 16, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted;
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such Bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Saint Michael's EMT Santos earns advanced certificate

In continuing efforts to maintain a very high standard of service and ensure its employees are trained and certified as the best in the CNMI, another Saint Michael's Medical Response team member recently completed and passed a certification in Pediatric Advanced Life Support as well as Instructor Level status to teach a list of courses in emergency medical response.

Branson Jay Santos, the crew chief for Saint Michael's and one of four Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians within the Saint Michael's roster, recently completed a course provided by the nationally recognized Health & Safety Institute—a world leader in emergency response, care, and safety training, HSI is headquartered in Eugene, Oregon,

and manages a family of brands that offer easy-to-use, dynamic instruction to communities, businesses, government agencies, and EMS and fire professionals. One of the brands of HSI is the American Training & Safety Institutes, or ASHI. ASHI Training Centers and instructors provide CPR, AED, and first aid training programs for the community, as well as ACLS and PALS training for professional responders.

At the invitation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Santos attended the course conducted at the CHCC for hospital employees/providers and passed with impressive scores.

In addition to the training in



Santos

PALS and the instructor course, Santos also completed and passed the course on blood borne pathogens. Health care providers like Santos must be aware of the dangers of contamination of infectious diseases and organisms in order to protect himself, the community, and other patients that he deals with each day. This training is in addition to the "in-house" training on infection control that is a requirement for all crew members of Saint Michael's.

The training that Santos obtained in blood borne pathogens also assists in satisfying the training requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1920.1030).

"Here at Saint Michael's, we continually keep the interest and safety of our patients at the center of our operations, what is good for them and what will make their experience a high quality one, but more importantly, a safe and reliable experience that exceed all industry and regulatory standards," explained

Frances Taimanao, operations chief and director of Compliance for Saint Michael's.

Derek Hocog, director of operations and a nationally registered EMT himself, said: "The ambulance business involves a myriad of safety, quality and industry standard issues that we are constantly ensuring that we comply with. In fact, Saint Michael's Medical Response EMTs are the first batch of EMTs to be fully licensed by the CNMI in accordance with P.L. 15-105."

SMMR holds the distinction of obtaining Licenses Number 001 from the CNMI Health Care Professional Licensing Board. The qualified crewmembers of SMMR also hold certificates in federal program standards like the National Incident Management System and CPR. To view the actual certificates of each crewmember, log on to their website at www.saintmichaelsnmi.com and click on "Crew and Personnel".

The four nationally registered St. Michael's employees are Derek T. Hocog, Mike Attao Concepcion, Joseph Torres White, and Branson Jay Santos. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A happy birthday shoutout goes out to Angelo Gabriel C. Manese, who is celebrating his special day today, Feb. 5, 2014! To our dearest Gabriel, happy 13th birthday and may all your wishes come true. God bless and we love you forever! Dad, Mom and ate Andee.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW FLIGHTS

Dynamic Airways launched direct charter flights from Hangzhou, China to Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands on Jan. 29, 2014, and from Tianjin, China to Saipan on Jan. 27, 2014. Service is provided on new Boeing 767 airliners with seating for 235 passengers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 5, 2006

'Not ready yet to lift surcharge'

The Fitial administration is not ready yet to remove the 3.5-cent fuel surcharge being imposed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on its customers. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said Friday that the leadership remains committed to lifting the surcharge but this may take some time. "We're still [committed] to get rid of the fuel surcharge. We'll update you on that in the next month or so," he said. At this time, he said, "I'm more concerned about the CUC engines." Villagomez said repairs must be done on all engines to ensure that they work and generate power efficiently.

NMC returns to 'advance status' with Pell

Here's a piece of good news for the Northern Marianas College: The Pell Grant Program has reverted the college's status to "advance status," which means all is well again, at least in the administration of this grant program. The status, said NMC president Tony V. Deleon Guerrero on Friday, means that NMC-screened student grant applications would be presumed to be correct before federal review and that relevant funds would be advanced to NMC students on a more timely basis. "After many months of hard work, revamping our own internal systems, and negotiating with federal Department of Education officials, Northern Marianas College's administration of federal Pell Grants has returned to normal," Guerrero said.

February 5, 2007

NMC on probation

The Northern Marianas College is under probation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation, but NMC acting president Danny Wyatt said its accreditation is not threatened as long as the college complies with the recommendations within a two-year period. Wyatt said the college was informed it has been placed under probation by WASC and given two years to comply with certain recommendations through a letter he received late last week. The letter stated that the accredited status of NMC continues during the probation period and its accreditation is not threatened as long as it satisfactorily addresses the recommendations.

Speaker hopeful for changes in wage bill

Although the federal wage hike bill covering the CNMI has passed the U.S. Senate, there remains a hope that it will be further amended to consider the plight of the CNMI community, said CNMI House speaker Oscar M. Babauta. Babauta, who will join the CNMI delegation in Washington, D.C. next week to speak on local immigration issues, said Saturday that the U.S. House may agree to the creation of a federal wage review board in the CNMI, which would give the island economy some consideration in setting its own wage rate.

February 5, 2008

NMI spending less on education

With a budget that has not significantly changed since 1998, the Commonwealth is spending less and less on each child that goes to a public school on the islands. According to the Public School System, the general cost of sending a child to a public school has shrunk by over 6 percent versus the amount it used to spend to subsidize a student's education in Fiscal Year 2001. With a student population of 10,742 currently enrolled in CNMI public schools from Kindergarten to grade 12, the Public School System can only ante up some \$3,333 per student, which is \$262 less than the \$3,602 spent on each child in 2001.

200 checks, 150 plane tickets remain uncollected

Until now, not a single worker has inquired with the Department of Labor about the expired 200 checks and 150 plane tickets owed to nonresident workers that remain uncollected at Labor. Labor Administrative Division director Rose Ada-Hocog told Saipan Tribune yesterday that, based on her verification with the Division of Immigration's Border Management System, some of these workers are still here in the CNMI. Ada-Hocog said that since Saipan Tribune published the news about the unclaimed checks and tickets on Jan. 18, 2008, no one has come to her office to follow up on the checks or the plane tickets.

Over 20 establishments welcome Chinese lion dance

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 16-strong lion dance performers of the Chinese Association of Saipan had their work cut out for them last Friday, as they visited more than 20 establishments to perform the traditional Chinese lion dance to ward off evil spirits and welcome the Year of the Wooden Horse, literally with a bang.

The Lunar New Year started bright and early for chief organizer Rose Chan and Huang Hong, who is the *de facto* leader of the dance troupe. Among the businesses they visited included TSL Plaza, Century Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, NIC Health, 9922 (11:30am), Canton Restaurant, Majesty Restaurant, Louis Vuitton, Kanoa Resort and Century Tours, Subway, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Micro Beach Hotel and Dollar Days, I Love Saipan, Duty Free Saipan, not to mention the private residences of ethnic Chinese on island.

Businessman and Chinese Association of Saipan director Ta Bu Kuy said the lion dance is deeply engrained in Chinese culture and they truly believe that it wards off bad vibes—if not spirits—in the coming year.

He said he had Chan and company perform the lion dance in half of his companies. Among the businesses that Ta owns are Chow Queen, Noni Saipan USA Pure Juice, Serenity Saloon & Spa, and the Micro Beach Hotel and Dollar Days.

“Kids really love Chinese New Year because they have



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chinese Association of Saipan volunteers perform the lion dance during the Lunar New Year celebration last Friday at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

new clothes and everyone gives them money in a little red envelope. It's also full of family reunions. They also make plans for the next year. Also forget and forgive all those who made transgressions,” said Ta.

For Kanoa Resort general manager Mark Ratliff, the performance of the Chinese lion dance at the Susupe property was nothing short of amazing.

“Kanoa’s lobby entrance

was adorned with a red entry arch that displayed three long red couplets that contained a happy, hopeful, uplifting message about a better New Year to come. Then began the ceremonial eating of the *choy cheng* or green vegetable, which is usually considered the payment for the performing group or, as I have been told, money to come. The green vegetable was placed under the entrance arch for the lion to ‘eat.’ Then

traditionally the lion carefully approaches the ‘green’ to test it to make sure that it is safe and not a firecracker or other dangerous item. After testing on the left and right sides, the lion did a dance to ward off any others that may want to eat his ‘green’ and began to toss the greens to the crowd, with some bystanders grabbing the green in hopes of good luck,” he narrated.

After visiting Kanoa Re-

sort’s lobby, the lion dance performers headed directly for the New Retail Outlet 880 and Century Tours. He said a very nice showing was on hand as Kanoa Resort wished all a happy and prosperous New Year.

At Canton Restaurant, the lion dance did the same routine outside the establishment but not before the two lions galloped around the restaurant—including the kitchen—as customers jockeyed for po-

sition to get a better a view.

After the lions devoured the “chi,” a Canton Restaurant staff lit what seemed like a 10-foot string of firecrackers.

Chan said their lion dance performances ended around 8:40pm and although everyone in the troupe was tired, they were also happy to have done their part in propagating a time-honored Chinese tradition of welcoming the New Year.



MARK RABAGO

Huang Hong leads one of two lions that performed at the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO

A customer at Canton Restaurant tries to appease her frightened son as two of the lions converge at their table.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the lions eats the “chi” situated at the entrance of the Century Tours office inside Kanoa Resort.



MARK RABAGO

One of the lions approaches the “chi” at the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO

The two lions perform while firecrackers are set off at the Canton Restaurant.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 25Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

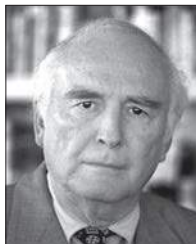
AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Job No. 1 for Obama— compromise

By DAN K. THOMASSON
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: thomassondan@aol.com.



WASHINGTON—The latest presidential message is that he is not concerned about the nation's capital but about moving the country forward on the strength of its grass roots. Barack Obama is expecting to set an agenda to do that and then use executive orders and the bully pulpit to accomplish it.

What's new about that?

This is a president who always has been more comfortable campaigning than pursuing the nitty gritty of Washington politics in achieving his goals. As a consequence, he seems to have failed to develop the skills necessary to accomplish great things (with the exception of the Affordable Care Act) in a divided Congress. More time spent learning the art of political compromise and manipulation, as coarse a word as that may seem, would have served him well.

Now Barack Obama obviously faces severe challenges at a time when his overall approval with Americans is at its lowest, leaving him to face a coming midterm election that could end the congressional division in favor of the Republicans. That would, of course, make his last two years in office miserably benign with his only hope for historic redemption the things he has set in motion for a successor to accomplish like immigration reform, the end of two wars, health-care reform and a better economy.

The dilemma he finds himself in, for instance, is trying to satisfy the left of his own Democratic Party and the right of the GOP at a time when moderate Republican leaders like House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio have indicated a willingness to tear up the party's "just say no" policies of the last five years and present him with opportunities for compromise. The first of these would be immigration. To his credit, the president has said he is willing to soften his own demands and move forward.

Another would be a positive decision on the highly controversial Keystone XL pipeline from Canada through the center of the nation to the Gulf Coast. The project, which Republican proponents claim is of great benefit to America's domestic oil needs, has been solidly opposed by conservationists and the Democratic Party left as potentially environmentally disastrous.

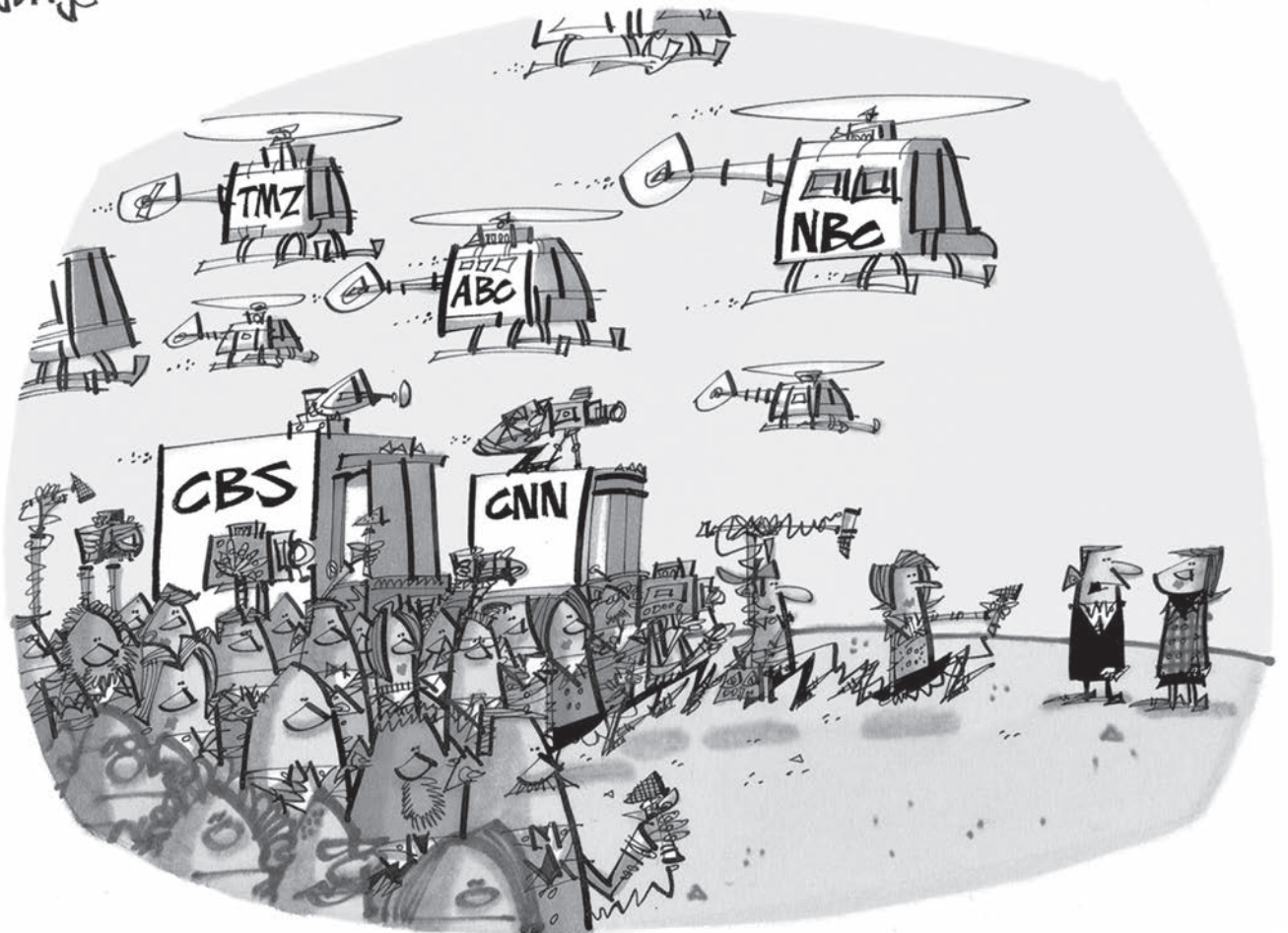
But the State Department last week released a report finding that the pipeline would not "significantly exacerbate" climate change through greenhouse emissions, giving Obama a perfect chance to approve the plan and show he is eager for some bipartisan accommodations.

The pipeline would carry 830,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Alberta, and Obama said last summer that he would favor the project if it did not further worsen the climate. Another factor Obama must consider is that if the pipeline is not approved, the oil will be loaded into railroad tankers for transportation, a potentially dangerous method since rail lines run through urban areas. On at least three occasions recently there have been derailments that cause oil spills, including one recent fire.

Yet the president seems still reluctant contending he wants to have more investigation by other Cabinet members and agency heads—leaving his critics to logically conclude he wants to study

See **SWEARING-IN** on Next Page

Judge @ 2014 KANSAS CITY STAR



"JUSTIN BIEBER STUBBED HIS TOE."

Ze middlesex

Previously, I dealt with the gender challenge of a neutral word for "she" and "he" by using a slash on "s/he", but I was never satisfied with the result. Now a young guy started using "ze" as a generic pronoun for both *she* and *he*, to also include the variations of the GLTB kind! I like that.

Gender wars are contemporary battlegrounds as humanity confronts the social biases created through the years among proponents of patriarchy and matriarchy. Patriarchy used to be the bad guy but since two matriarchs have been politically going after each other's throat in Bangladesh, the field is getting leveled, at least, in the meanest field. Legalizing same-gender marriages is also in the ascendancy worldwide. Now that we know writing and phonetics as symbol systems are human creation, we can participate in the process without blind obeisance to gender.

We note the organic nature of language development, subject to change, with some falling on the wayside when the supplanting words are better substitutes to point to realities more clearly. There is no virtue to hanging on to dead lingo. Welcome "ze"!

Born in the Philippines shortly before the United States recognized independence, my primary language was English with Tagalog spoken around Manila foisted as the national language (*wikang pambansa*), much like the way Beijing's Mandarin is the basis of China's common tongue (*putunghua*). In China's case, there is commonality in the written pictographs and ideograms, even historically used in Japan, Korea, and North Vietnam, imposed on the Zang, Uighur, Mongol, and Manchu at the geographical edges of the nation. The *hanzi*, however, reflects the unity of the Han culture between the mighty Huanghe and the Chiang Jiang rivers!

My father was the principal of a church-related high school in Northern Luzon so the traffic of English-speaking missionaries was constant across our dining table. Defensively assertive with no half-measure of pride for speaking the King's English from hearing the King James version of Holy Writ, textbook for Sunday school, I graced the pews of our chapel under the tropical green, a New England white wooden framed box with a steeple and a bell under which my father delivered weekly sermons. As a young distracted boy, I'd skip the pulpit passion and climb the guava tree by the fence for its not-quite ripe fruits while mother herded the rest of the siblings.

In college, I protested against imposed Spanish, the elite's lingua franca, a Liberal Arts degree requirement. I failed to hear the melodic tone of Cervantes' narrative, and the rich texture of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's bold experiments. Then I found myself in the early '80s among the Basques in Santiago, Chile and Lima, Peru, the Catalans in Guatemala, and the Afro-European creoles in Venezuela and Brazil. I realized how openly handicapped I had left myself as a

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



consequence of a misguided exuberance in my youth.

I tell my anti-authority students that the real rebel wins. To lose from self-inflicted wounds of voluntary martyrdom, at one time a criteria for sainthood, is simply a self-centered though faint-hearted form of neurosis.

Pilipino, later changed to *Filipino* to distinguish it from the people, is not unlike Chamorro in its voracious adaptation of Iberian terms, adopting the spelling to the peculiar ways nationalists tend to assert their independence from their previous colonizers by being obtusely different. Spanish was the favored tongue of the country for 300 years, promoted in public education during the brief liberalization of the Spanish Cortez shortly before the American Thomases descended at the turn of the 20th century with their English reading books.

In a sense, there is hardly anyone who is monolingual in my time. Growing up where Iloko was spoken, I would later hear of Ibanag and Itawit in the Cagayan Valley before the Cebuano, Hiligaynon, and Waray in the Visayas became familiar to our ears. We added Sama-Bajaw and a few Arabic terms when we hung out with Peace Corps volunteers in Mindanao.

Steeped in the history of Europe as a former colony, I was exposed to Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, English and German. Throw in Hebrew and Greek at the fringes of Bible idolatry and we swam in the babel of Babylon! Purists who decry the demise of old languages tend to do so to justify their academic expertise. I once consulted with an agency in D.C. that asked me to read Iloko that native speakers would not dare use. But like translators of the Bible, a language on the way to extinction is preserved at all cost.

A language survives because of use. It dies when it outlives its usefulness. Records of how a word is used make it to a dictionary but not as a prescription for eternal usage. The meaning of a word is in its use. It changes. It even dies.

"Ze" has entered my vocabulary. Ze will not eliminate "he", "she", and "it"; just adds to it. It might even delight my Tejas-Mejicano campesinos who will mistake my use of zee language. Ze does not matter. Now, we even have a word for the middlesex!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Culture of self-government

There's the culture of self-government, the aspired smaller central authority unlike the huge federal bureaucracy in Washington, D.C. It's the belief that greater governance must reside in the states, cities, and counties, truthfully dignifying a "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

But in our search for greater self-government, let's take some ocular review of our footprints to critically evaluate our performance in strengthening our democratic institutions. It's a sure way to planning the trip ahead in search of our aspirations for stronger self-government and far less command and dictates from the feds.

Economy: We did well during the boom years of the mid-'80s and '90s. Then slowly the economy headed Deep South to where we are today with a cumulative deficit of over \$600 million. This as revenue generation struggles inching upwards to about \$126 million last fiscal year. Has the NMI reined in major capital investment since 2005? Nah! Is the fiscal impotence an issue to be concerned about? Pen your view here.

The persistent waltz with mediocrity ignores the importance or essence of new capital investment. Have we buckled down to critically reviewing predatory and regressive tax and other pertinent policies? Or is this task way above the heads of policymakers who prefer basking in the sea of "do-nothing" in perpetuity? Isn't the NMI in dire fiscal straits, therefore the next most urgent agenda is to rein in capital investment to ease the hardship at the village level?

Isn't the NMI equally a laboratory of economic freedom? Have we been realistic and prudent in this respect or have we buried our heads, time and again, in mediocrity? Don't you think our people are tired of "do-nothings" who repeat stale rhetoric?

Accountability: If we're true to the commitment of greater self-government, what have we done to cut the habit of spending on expenses we could ill afford? Have we succeeded downsizing the bi-cameral legislative system that cost over \$4.8 million annually? Have we cut down the salaries of the Tinian Gaming Commission to decent level over the prevailing \$100K per year doing, yes, nothing?

Have we stopped traveling if only to admit the bankruptcy of the local government? Have we downsized the bloated public payroll?

Who bankrupted the retirement program? Is there a chance to restore the 25-percent cut in pension pay? Didn't health premium and the entire nine yards just increased by 40-45 percent? Isn't fiscal responsibility a major obligation under the concept of self-government? What's our performance rating on this score?

We've also accepted federal programs that look sound, initially ignoring that when funds taper off we'd end up saddling the local government with more debts upwards of \$200 million. Have we ably cleared any portion of the cumulative deficit of \$561 million? Yet, we wish to pile up more debts with pension obligation bond to the tune of \$60 million to \$80 million? This isn't the responsible thing to do, is it? Then we boast of turning the NMI into a welfare state. Is this our future, an archipelago of beggars? How about reviving the culture of responsibility?

It's clear our journey over the last 36 years has been problematic and remains so today. The issues we've piled with local inadequacies aren't very encouraging when measured against spouts for greater self-government. Or is it a case of elected offices attracting fools, knaves and power-hungry mediocre types? Perhaps it's just as appropriate to begin learning to own up to our responsibilities.

The future: If paradigms remain stuck in the abyss of apathy and lack of conscious leadership then it stands to reason that there's not much to be optimistic about in terms of the future of these isles. I could only envision it turning into a decimated desert without any oasis for sustenance. Is this your vision of our future? When do we begin taking back the future of our islands from exhausted neo-political dinosaurs?

Dioxin unearthed at Kadena

More than 40 barrels of dangerous dioxin were unearthed by construction workers recently in land near schools in Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, according to recent news account in the *Japan Times*. Parents of students were fuming mad that the dangerous toxin was never revealed until after their removal.

Among the barrels initially unearthed last June were some marked with the logo of the Dow Chemical Company, one of the leading manufacturers of military defoliants — including Agent Orange—during the Vietnam War.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Tests on the barrels revealed the presence of two of Agent Orange's telltale ingredients: the herbicide 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T), and 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodiben-zop-dioxin (TCDD), the most lethal form of dioxin.

The discovery of buried toxin isn't helping plans to relocate the military air base from Futenma in Okinawa. Fireworks would intensify between pro-relocation and anti-relocation groups up ahead.

Of mineral resources

Our national government controls the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone in coastal states and territories. It also disposes of it or money made of mineral mining in any of its waters. This is found under the Magnuson Act, granting sovereign control of the 200-mile EEZ to the federal government.

Furthermore, the Antiquities Act grants the U.S. President unilateral authority over the disposition of properties under the flag. It's a law that prevails in view of its supremacy over local constitutional law. Both deal with the "national interest" of our country.

Finally, we gave up sovereignty under Covenant Section 101. Thus, we could explore with the feds if there's anything that could accrue to the local treasury, but control and disposition is solely the purview of the feds.

It is for this reason that minerals found off the coast of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, the eastern seaboard and southern coastal states are all under the federal government. It's good discussion piece though we may be a "bit late Army."

Forget 'Shark Week': They aren't the only fish in the sea

By **STEPHEN R. PALUMBI** and **ANTHONY R. PALUMBI**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Americans are obsessed with sharks. Lately, the headlines have focused on Maui, which had eight shark attacks—two fatal—last year. Never mind that swimming in Hawaii's ocean is safer than driving the roads; tourists and natives alike have emptied store shelves of anti-shark devices, despite their dubious effectiveness

COMPROMISE

From Page 10

the matter to death and to put Secretary of State John Kerry between the proverbial rock and a hard place.

One of the initiatives the president's men have emphasized in his determination to bypass the Congress through executive action is expanding broadband service to 20 million American students in 15,000 schools over the next two years. The Federal Communications Commission has announced that it will double from \$1 billion to \$2 billion the amount it spends on adding high-speed Internet connections in schools and libraries. The money will come from restructuring the \$2.4 billion E-rate program for advanced telecommunications and information services. The program is supported by fees paid by telecommunications users.

How much time the president spends campaigning for individual Democrat candidates over the next nine months until the November elections is problematic. Clearly his lower poll ratings have made him less desirable on the stump. On the other hand he clearly expects to be taking his agenda to the people and advocating for party candidates is routinely a part of that.

The president's State of the Union pledge to spend less time warring with Congress and more with assuring Americans that he will move forward is hardly news. It's been that way since he was first elected in 2008 and it hasn't worked terribly well.

and reports that a great white shark ate one.

Luckily, ferocious sharks are rare and the devastation of a shark attack even rarer. But still, every summer since 1987, the Discovery Channel has capitalized on shark fears with its annual "Shark Week," a video carnival of teeth, lunging predation and more teeth.

But why are we so fixated on sharks, when the oceans contain so many other fascinating, wild and intense species? Perhaps what we need is an "Un-Shark Week" to introduce Americans to some of the sea's truly extreme animals, and help them over their shark obsession.

Is it speed you're after? The fastest fish in the sea is not a shark. Sailfish hold the unofficial record at 60 mph, and well-documented speed trials have clocked both tuna and wahoo at nearly 50 mph. By contrast, the most celebrated human swimmers train their whole lives to manage 6 to 7 mph. Billfish such as marlin and sailfish hunt at such high speeds that their cold-blooded senses struggle to keep up. In response, these fish have evolved heaters in their brains and eyes, supercharging them to perceive prey flashing by and to gulp them down at highway velocities.

You want ferocious? The deep sea's most epic battles don't involve sharks. They feature two of the world's largest creatures, sperm whales and giant squid, and their combat happens in near total darkness. The hunting whale's sharp lower jaw slices into the squid's lean, rubbery muscle. At the same time, countless sharp "teeth" on the squid's tentacles gouge wounds into the sperm whale's expansive head. We can tell the species of squid from the scars it leaves: circular saw marks for the giant squid and razor-straight claw marks for the colossal squid. We also know who tends to win because the hard beaks of these squids end up in the stomachs of sperm whales all over the world.

The ocean's deadliest predators are as un-sharklike as can be imagined. The slender, demure cone snail grows a maximum of 3 inches long, but it can kill a human with a single jab from its small, harpoon-like tooth. These snails specialize in hunting fish, and they have evolved a potent venom that shuts down nerve and muscle function in an instant.

Lurking beneath the sand, with its chemical-sensing proboscis sniffing the water like a tubular snake, a cone snail waits for a fish to venture near. The proboscis rears up and shoots a hollow harpoon, lancing the fish's flesh and pumping it full of venom for a near-instant death. Humans are rarely deliberately attacked, but when an acquisitive diver pockets a live snail, things can turn deadly. The snail's harpoon, it turns out, can penetrate swimsuit lining.

If it's size you want, the planet's largest fish is indeed a shark: the languid, plankton-grazing whale shark. But the oceans' great mammals are far bigger. The blue whale, in fact, is the largest animal that has ever lived on the planet. Traveling the oceans with an efficiency shipwrights envy, these goliaths live serene lives that may stretch for centuries. They can live longer than any other mammal and probably longer than any shark on Earth, but they cannot claim the title of the ocean's longest-lived creatures. This honor goes to colonial organisms such as cold-water corals off the coast of Hawaii or the glass sponges that build titanic works of architecture below the waves, tending their quiet cathedrals over thousands of years.

It should come as no surprise that sharks grab so few superlatives: fastest, deepest, deadliest and so on. After all, they compete for those titles alongside millions of other ocean species, all just as driven to win the game of life. These species thrive in places that have demanded amazing adaptations—such as hydrothermal vents where the water is heated above the boiling point. Or they live in familiar habitats in startling ways.






The abundance of attention has been a double-edged tooth for sharks: We may understand them better, but we fear them more. They'd benefit from sharing the limelight with some of the other amazing ocean creatures. Let "Un-Shark Week" begin.

Stephen Palumbi is a professor of marine biology at Stanford University and senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment. Anthony Palumbi is a novelist and video-game writer. They are the authors of the forthcoming book The Extreme Life of the Sea. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

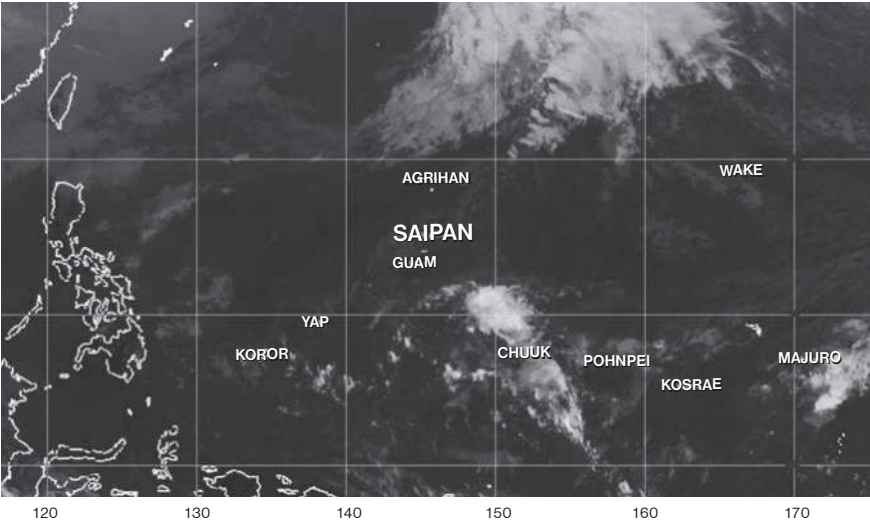
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲70 ▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲41 ▼24
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼67
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼69
London	Showers	▲50 ▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲62 ▼44
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲89 ▼68
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
New York	Freezing Rain	▲35 ▼21
Osaka	Cloudy	▲42 ▼34
Paris	Showers	▲49 ▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲46 ▼35
Rome	Showers	▲59 ▼45
Salem	Sunny	▲34 ▼17
San Francisco	Sunny	▲54 ▼44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲36 ▼23
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲44 ▼31
Washington, DC	Rain	▲53 ▼28

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
11:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N145E to beyond 130E at 21N. Clouds and scattered showers are present near the front within 100 miles of a line from 21N130E to 23N144E. Convergent south winds are generating more showers and thunderstorms farther to the northeast near and ahead of the front or north of a line from 22N145E to 21N152E to 25N161E. This area includes Minami Tori Shima. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from southwest of Koror at 4N130E to a weak circulation centered well southeast of Yap near 4N144E then continues southeastward to end near EQ151E. A few thunderstorms are seen east of Koror within 80 miles of a line from 7N135E to 5N141E. A trade-wind surge is producing a band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 12N148E to 1N156E. A diffuse shear line extends west-southwestward from 11N180 to near Pohnpei at 7N158E. Patchy low-level clouds and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends northeastward from 1N168E to 7N173E. Scattered showers are taking place south and east of Majuro within 120 Miles of a line from 5N171E to 9N180E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:38 AM	11:27 PM
Thursday	11:23 AM	
Friday	12:09 PM	12:20 AM
Saturday	12:55 PM	1:11 AM
Sunday	1:43 PM	2:02 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ603 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Yellen sworn in as Fed chair, succeeding Bernanke

WASHINGTON (AP)—Janet Yellen officially took over the leadership of the Federal Reserve on Monday—and along with it a delicate task: Unwinding the Fed's extraordinary economic stimulus without spooking investors or slowing a still-subpar economy.

Yellen, the first woman to lead the Fed in its 100 years, was sworn in during a brief ceremony in the central bank's board room. She succeeded Ben Bernanke, who stepped down last week after eight momentous years.

Bernanke is joining the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank, where he will be a distinguished fellow in residence, Brookings announced Monday.

The economy Yellen inherits is far stronger than the one Bernanke faced in the fall of 2008, when the worst financial crisis since the 1930s erupted. Bernanke spent the rest of his tenure launching and managing an array of programs that are widely credited with helping restore lending and strengthen the financial system and economy after the Great Recession.

Yellen, 67, who served as vice chair under Bernanke, is taking over just as the Fed has begun its first modest moves to scale back its enormous support for the economy. At a meeting last week, the last under Bernanke's leadership, the Fed approved a second \$10 billion reduction in its month-



Janet Yellen is sworn in as Federal Reserve Board Chair, in Washington, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014. AP

ly bond purchases to \$65 billion.

The first cut was announced at the Fed's December meeting, when it said it would trim its purchases from \$85 billion a month, the level for more than a year. The Fed's bond buying has been intended to keep long-term interest rates near record lows to stimulate the economy.

But as the economy has improved, Fed officials have decided it could withstand less help. The Fed is expected to keep reducing its bond purchases this year and end them altogether in December.

If the Fed moves too quickly to withdraw its stimulus, it could spook financial markets and send rates higher. Conversely, paring its bond buying too slowly could risk creating bubbles—that might burst—in real estate, stocks or other assets.

Already, concern about reduced Fed bond buying and the prospect of higher U.S. rates has shaken global markets. Central banks in several emerging nations have raised rates to try to prop up their falling currencies and control inflation. Stock prices have sunk.

Countries such as Turkey, India and Brazil had benefited from the Fed's bond purchases. Investors poured money into these countries in search of higher yields than they could get in the United States and other developed nations. Now, with U.S. rates possibly headed up, investor money is flowing back out of these countries.

Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University Channel Islands, said he wouldn't be surprised if the Fed slowed or even halted its bond reductions if the turbu-

lence overseas worsens.

"If the global market turmoil continues, I think the Fed will have to take notice," Sohn said. "We are living in an interconnected world, and I don't think the Fed can ignore what is happening overseas."

The Fed's next meeting, the first with Yellen in charge, is March 18-19. She is scheduled to hold a news conference afterward. Before then, Yellen will appear before Congress next week to deliver the Fed's twice-a-year report on its handling of rates and its economic outlook.

House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, has been vocal in his criticism of the Fed's policymaking. Hensarling has argued that the Fed's use of trillions in bond purchases and ultra-low rates have left the country vulnerable to higher inflation and economic instability. He has announced hearings on the Fed's bond buying and its "potential unintended consequences."

Yellen has said that such fears are overblown and that the Fed has the means to monitor risks and address them.

A close ally of Bernanke, Yellen is expected to follow his approach of maintaining low short-term rates while gradually scaling back the bond purchases designed to keep long-term rates low.



Janet Yellen

First woman to chair the U.S. Federal Reserve

Early years

Born 1946, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Education Bachelor's in economics, Brown University, 1967; doctorate in economics, Yale University, 1971

Family Married to George A. Akerlof, a Nobel laureate in economics, one son

Career

1971-76 Assistant professor at Harvard University

1978-80 Economist, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

1994-97 Member of the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors

1997 Chair of President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers

2004-10 President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

2010 Named vice chair of the Federal Reserve System; began 14-year term as a member of the Federal Reserve Board

2013 Nominated by President Barack Obama for Federal Reserve Chair; confirmed by the Senate Jan. 6

Source: Federal Reserve, AP, MCT Photo Service © 2014 MCT

Internet firms release data on NSA spy requests

WASHINGTON (AP)—Freed by a recent legal deal with government lawyers, major technology firms released new data Monday on how often they are ordered to turn over customer information for secret national security investigations—figures that show that the government collected data on thousands of Americans.

The publications disclosed by Google, Microsoft, Yahoo, Facebook, LinkedIn and Tumblr provided expanded details and some vented criticism about the government's handling of customers' Internet data in counter-terrorism and other intelligence-related probes. The figures from 2012 and 2013 showed that companies, such as Google and Microsoft, were compelled by the government to provide information on as many as 10,000 customer accounts in a six-month period. Yahoo complied with government requests for information on more than 40,000 accounts

in the same period.

The companies earlier provided limited information about government requests for data, but a new agreement reached last week with the Obama administration allowed the firms to provide a broadened, though still circumscribed, set of figures to the public.

Seeking to reassure customers and business partners alarmed by revelations about the government's massive collection of Internet and computer data, the firms stressed details indicating that only small numbers of their customers were targeted by authorities. Still, even those small numbers showed that thousands of Americans were affected by the government requests approved by judges of the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The data releases by the five major tech firms offered a mix of dispassionate graphics, reassurances and protests, seeking to alleviate customer concerns

about government spying while pressuring national security officials about the companies' constitutional concerns. The shifting tone in the releases showed the precarious course that major tech firms have had to navigate in recent months, caught between their public commitments to Internet freedom and their enforced roles as data providers to U.S. spy agencies.

In a company blog post, Microsoft General Counsel Brad Smith scolded the U.S. and allied governments for failing to renounce the reported mass interception of Internet data carried by communications cables. Top lawyers and executives for major tech firms had previously raised alarms about media reports describing that hacking by U.S. and UK spy agencies and cited them during conversations with U.S. officials during President Barack Obama's internal review of planned changes to the government's spying operations.

Car-to-car talk: Hey, look out for that collision!

WASHINGTON (AP)—Your car might see a deadly crash coming even if you don't, the government says, indicating it will require automakers to equip new vehicles with technology that lets cars warn each other if they're plunging toward peril.

The action, still some years off, has "game-changing potential" to cut collisions, deaths and injuries, federal transportation officials said at a news conference on Monday.

A radio signal would continually transmit a vehicle's position, heading, speed and other information. Cars and light trucks would receive the same information back from other cars, and a vehicle's computer would alert its driver to an impending collision. Alerts could be a flashing message, an audible warning, or a driver's seat that rumbles. Some systems might even automatically brake to avoid an accident if manufacturers choose to in-

clude that option.

Your car would "see" when another car or truck equipped with the same technology was about to run a red light, even if that vehicle was hidden around a corner. Your car would also know when a car several vehicles ahead in a line of traffic had made a sudden stop and alert you even before you saw brake lights. The technology works up to about 300 yards.

If communities choose to invest in the technology, roadways and traffic lights could start talking to cars, too, sending warnings of traffic congestion or road hazards ahead in time for drivers to take a detour.

The technology is separate from automated safety features using sensors and radar that are already being built into some high-end vehicles today and which are seen as the basis for future self-driving cars. But government and industry officials see the two technologies as

compatible. If continuous conversations between cars make driving safer, then self-driving cars will become safer as well.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which has been working with automakers on the technology for the past decade, estimates vehicle-to-vehicle communications could prevent up to 80 percent of accidents that don't involve drunken drivers or mechanical failure.

Crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher accounted for nearly a third of the 33,500 traffic fatalities in the U.S. in 2012, according to the safety agency.

The technology represents the start of a new era in automotive safety in which the focus is "to prevent crashes in the first place," as compared with previous efforts to ensure accidents are survivable, said David Friedman, the head of the agency.

No orders to automakers are imminent, officials said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
15,372.80
-326.05
-2.08%

S&P
1,741.89
-40.70
-2.28%

NASDAQ
3,996.96
-106.92
-2.61%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1266
British Pound	0.6142
Canadian Dollar	1.1071
Chinese Yuan	6.0615
Euro	0.7393

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7639	Philippine Peso	45.3998
Indian Rupee	62.6715	Singapore Dollar	1.2692
Indonesian Rupiah	12075.0000	South Korean Won	1083.3108
Japanese Yen	101.0070	Swiss Franc	0.9011
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3350	Taiwan Dollar	30.3336
New Zealand Dollar	1.2310	Thailand Baht	32.8337

Nation

Seattle Super Bowl win buoys a city used to losing

SEATTLE (AP)—For a city accustomed to losing not just games, but teams, the Seattle Seahawks' dominant Super Bowl win provided a long overdue catharsis, buoying the spirits of a fan base that hasn't always had much to cheer about.

Fans poured into the Seahawks team store on Monday at CenturyLink Field to buy championship T-shirts and hats, parents made plans to pull their kids out of school for Wednesday's parade, and staff at The Seattle Times donned aprons to help hawk some of the extra 106,000 copies printed with "Champs!" emblazoned on the front page.

"I spent a little bit of money this morning, but it's priceless," said Julie Keim, who bought 11 shirts at \$28 apiece and 11 hats at \$35 apiece for the staff at her maritime-training school in the north Seattle suburb of Edmonds. "There's so many players to be proud of on this team."

The Seahawks' 43-8 manhandling of the Denver Broncos on Sunday gave the city its first major men's sports championship since the SuperSonics won

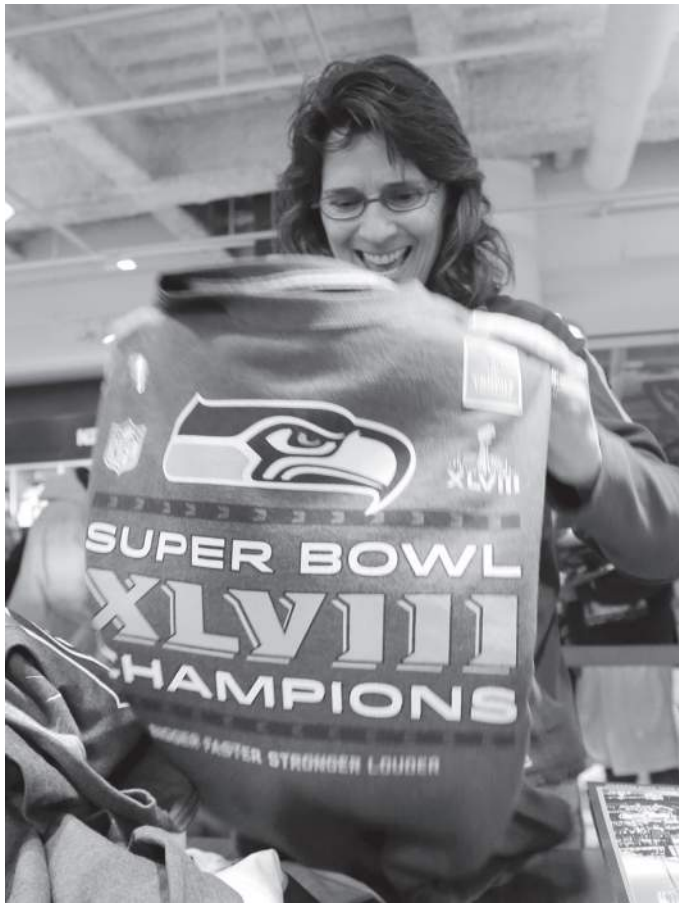
the NBA title in 1979—and helped erase some of the lingering bitterness over the Sonics' 2008 departure for Oklahoma City, where the team became the Thunder.

In fact, before Sunday, Seattle's two major professional championships were in sports in which the city no longer competes—hockey and basketball. The Seattle Metropolitans won the 1917 Stanley Cup before folding in 1924.

Unlike fans of some other championship-starved teams—say, the Chicago Cubs or the pre-2004 Boston Red Sox—Seahawks faithful haven't had the Bulls, Celtics, Blackhawks or Bruins to cheer for.

Fans launched fireworks, blared horns and partied across the city as the final seconds of the Super Bowl ticked away. The celebration lasted into the night.

"I can't make you understand what this means to me!" shouted lifelong Seattleite John Caro, who, with his wife Corina, both 59, whooped their way down Lake City Way in North Seattle and high-fived



AP
Julie Keim, of Mukilteo, Wash., looks toward a clerk to check on sizing as she purchases a stack of Seattle Seahawks' Super Bowl championship shirts and caps at the team store, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, in Seattle.

A new entitlement? The right to preschool

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Republican governors and lawmakers who now control a majority of state capitols have been pushing aggressively to cut spending and shrink government—with one glaring exception.

Many are pumping new money into preschool programs at a rate equaling or even exceeding the Democratic-dominated capitols stereotypically cast as big spenders.

The push reflects a conclusion among conservatives that one part of the social safety net deserves more government help, not less. If it continues, the move could be a step toward creation of a new educational entitlement at a time when both parties are concerned about the costs of the cur-

rent programs, such as Medicare and Social Security.

For the GOP, the spending could have political consequences. Research indicates that pre-school help appeals to blue-collar voters who are important to broadening the party's base of support.

State funding to help families afford pre-school plunged a couple of years ago because of the lingering effects of the recession. But it has surged back and is now \$400 million higher than before the economic downturn, according to a recent report by the Education Commission for the States.

In the 2013-2014 school year, funding rose in 30 of the 40 states that provide preschool aid.

The three largest increases occurred in Republican dominated states—a \$65 million spending hike in Michigan, nearly \$48 million in Texas and about \$27 million in South Carolina.

Republicans are putting their own twist on the preschool programs. Indiana Gov. Mike Pence has framed it as a "voucher" for lower-income parents to send their children to the public, private or parochial preschool of their choice. Mississippi has launched its first state-funded preschool program through competitive grants. And Missouri's Republican-led Legislature, which cut preschool grants while reforming eligibility a couple of years ago, now will be considering whether to triple funding.

Some state preschool programs are reaching into the middle-class. Michigan, for example, provides free preschool to a family of four earning up to about \$59,000.

Preschool is popular "with a bunch of different economic groups" in urban, suburban and rural areas alike, said Michael Griffith, a school finance consultant for the education commission. "So I think that's the reason why we've seen Republican governors and legislatures embrace it as much as we've seen the Democratic ones embrace it."

Fewer than half of the nation's 3- and 4-year-olds attend publicly funded preschool programs, according to one report.

Educator charged with sexual abuse in YouTube case

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California school administrator who quit her job after a former student aired sexual abuse allegations on a YouTube video that has since been seen nearly a million times was charged Monday with 16 counts of sexually abusing two girls, prosecutors said.

Andrea Cardosa, 40, was charged with five counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child and 11 other counts of abuse and could get life in prison, the Riverside County District Attorney's office said in a statement. She was not yet in custody, and a \$5 million arrest warrant has been issued, prosecutors said.

Cardosa's lawyer, Randy Collins, said he couldn't imme-

diately comment as he had not yet been advised of the charges.

The case came to light after a now 28-year-old woman posted the video on YouTube Jan. 17 showing her making a call to confront Cardosa about the abuse allegations that she said began when she was 12 and Cardosa was her basketball coach.

The video also was sent to the Alhambra Unified School District, where Cardosa was working as an assistant principal. The superintendent immediately referred the case to police, and Cardosa resigned the same day.

The video was viewed nearly 1 million times just days after it was posted on YouTube, and a second alleged victim later came forward.

Because the five aggravated sexual assault charges carry a life sentence, the statute of limitations does not apply though the alleged crimes took place between 1997 and 2001, district attorney's spokesman John Hall said.

Fifteen of the counts stem from allegations of abuse against the woman, named Jamie, who posted the YouTube video, and one stems from abuse allegations related to the second woman, named Brianna. Both women asked to be identified by their first names, and the Associated Press is not using either woman's full name because they say they are victims of sexual abuse.

Brianna said she came forward after watching Jamie's video.

In it, Jamie phones Alhambra High School, where receptionists connected her to a woman who identifies herself as Cardosa.

"You should be so ashamed and so disgusted with yourself," Jamie says.

"I am. I am," the woman says. "I regret it every day. Every day."

Jamie does not give specifics of the alleged abuse in the video.

School district officials said Cardosa was hired in October after she passed criminal background checks and came with a clean record from her previous employer.

Brianna, who is now 18, said Cardosa befriended her mother while Brianna was a student at Tomas Rivera Middle School in Perris in 2010.

passersby. "We have waited so freakin' long for this!"

Thousands of people packed the city's oldest neighborhood, Pioneer Square, and the Fire Department reported about a half-dozen bonfires around the city, mostly involving couches and mattresses burned in streets.

The biggest blaze was near the University of Washington, where one person was arrested for investigation of reckless burning. Two shootings also were reported but the injuries weren't life-threatening.

The celebration, however, was mostly harmless, even though there were about a half-dozen arrests Sunday night, and police dispersed the Pioneer Square crowd after some revelers began smashing windows and throwing bottles at officers.

Videos of fans waiting politely for a light to change before crossing a street spread quickly on the Internet, demonstrating

that one doesn't jaywalk in Seattle, even amid a Super Bowl celebration.

Seattle's sports history has been mostly sad. Aside from the SuperSonics' relocation after 41 years, baseball's Mariners—who started playing in 1977, seven years after the Pilots moved to Milwaukee—have been woeful, losing 101 games in 2008 and 2010, and 91 last year.

But there have been bright spots.

The Seahawks made it to the Super Bowl in 2005, where they lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers amid complaints about the officiating that Seattle fans continue to voice.

In 1994, the SuperSonics had the best record in the NBA during the regular season then became the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 8 seed in the opening round of the playoffs. Two years later, the Sonics couldn't overcome the 72-win Bulls in the NBA finals.

ACROSS THE NATION

Child dies after found unresponsive in ship's pool

A 4-year-old child has died after being pulled from a swimming pool on a Norwegian Cruise Line ship off the coast of North Carolina. A 6-year-old boy found with the child survived. Coast Guard Petty Officer Adam SanSoucie said both children were found unresponsive in the pool Monday aboard the ship, which was located 40 miles east of Cape Lookout. On its Facebook page, Norwegian Cruise Line said an emergency medical team on the ship gave both children CPR, but the 4-year-old died. The announcement said the 6-year-old boy was airlifted with his grandmother and a nurse to a hospital. SanSoucie said the boy was taken by a U.S. Marine helicopter to Carteret General Hospital in Morehead City, N.C. (AP)

Wash. paint store driver kills manager, self

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP)—A paint company driver has fatally shot a company manager and himself at a business park in the southwest Washington city of Vancouver. Police spokeswoman Kim Kapp identified the manager as 45-year-old Ryan Momeny, who was killed Monday in front of a Benjamin Moore Paint distribution center. Kapp says 64-year-old Robert R. Brown was found inside a vehicle in the parking lot, dead from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police did not discuss a motive. Kapp says they continue to investigate but are not looking for anyone else in the shootings. A nearby school was briefly locked down when shots were first reported.

Police: Michigan escaped prisoner captured

IONIA, Mich. (AP)—Police say a convicted killer who made a brazen escape from a Michigan prison has been captured in Indiana. Indiana State Police Sgt. Ron Galaviz says Michael David Elliot was captured Monday evening in LaPorte County, Indiana. Galaviz says a sheriff's deputy investigating a vehicle theft spotted the stolen automobile and tried to make a stop. The suspect ran, but authorities were able to capture him. Authorities say Elliot peeled a hole in two fences with his hands to escape from the Ionia Correctional Facility on Sunday night. They say he then abducted a woman and fled to Indiana, where the victim and her vehicle were safely recovered.

FDA launching anti-smoking campaign aimed at youth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration is using ads that depict yellow teeth and wrinkled skin to show the nation's at-risk youth the costs associated with cigarette smoking. The federal agency said Tuesday it is launching a \$115 million multimedia education campaign called "The Real Cost" that's aimed at stopping teenagers from smoking and encouraging them to quit. Advertisements will run in more than 200 markets throughout the U.S. for at least one year beginning Feb. 11. The campaign will include ads on TV stations such as MTV and print spots in magazines like Teen Vogue. It also will use social media.

Asia

Protesters vow to annul Thai vote, step up rallies

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government protesters in Thailand vowed Monday to stage larger rallies in central Bangkok and push ahead with efforts to nullify an election they disrupted, preventing millions of people from voting.

Despite fears of violence, voting proceeded peacefully in 90 percent of polling stations Sunday. The protesters forced polling booths to close in Bangkok and southern Thailand, leaving some legislative seats unfilled. As a result, a series of special elections are required to complete the balloting, extending the country's political paralysis for months.

Election results will not be announced until all areas have successfully voted.

After sabotaging the election process, the protesters and their allies said they will go to court to try to get the polls nullified on several grounds, including that they were not completed in one day.

The opposition Democrat Party, which backs the protesters and boycotted the vote, said Monday it is studying other legal justifications to invalidate the election as well.

The struggle to hold the balloting was part of a 3-month-old conflict that has split the country between supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and opponents, who allege her government is too corrupt to rule, and that she is a puppet of



Anti-government protesters remove barbed wire during a rally outside the office of the permanent secretary for defense where Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was reportedly working inside Monday, Feb. 3, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. AP

her brother, ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin, a billionaire businessman who is the most divisive figure in modern Thai history, fled into exile to avoid a corruption conviction after being deposed in a 2006 military coup.

The demonstrators have occupied major intersections in Bangkok and forced government ministries to shut down and work elsewhere.

"We are not giving up the

fight," protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban said. "Our mission is to keep shutting down government offices, so don't ask us to give those back."

Suthep, a former opposition lawmaker, said the movement was closing two of its Bangkok protest sites to consolidate at five other locations for safety against attacks by government supporters.

The move is bound to cause more disruption in central Bang-

kok, where protesters have shut major intersections in the Silom and Sukhumvit business districts and Ratchaprasong shopping district, where many of the city's upscale malls are located.

The protesters are demanding the government be replaced by an unelected council that would rewrite laws to combat deep-seated corruption and money politics and remove the Shinawatra family's influence from politics. Yingluck has refused

to step down, arguing she was elected by a large majority and is open to reform, but that such a council would be unconstitutional and undemocratic.

The protesters are a minority that cannot win elections, but comprise a formidable alliance of opposition leaders, royalists, and powerful businessmen who have set their sights on ousting the government. They have won past battles—by ousting Thaksin in the army coup, and by

forcing out two Thaksin-allied premiers through controversial legal rulings.

Many believe another so-called "judicial coup" will bring down Yingluck's government.

Suthep's public assurances to followers that the election will be nullified leaves "no doubt" that the Constitutional Court will end up hearing a case seeking to annul it, said Verapat Pariyawong, an independent lawyer.

If the election is nullified, Verapat said there will be "more blood on the streets," a reference to expectations that the government's many rural supporters are unlikely to sit idle.

Before Thaksin was deposed in 2006, the Constitutional Court nullified an election won by his party. The ruling found in part that the positioning of ballot booths had compromised voter privacy.

The United States expressed regret that many Thais were prevented from voting. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Monday the U.S. doesn't want to see a military coup or recourse to violence, and remains concerned that political tensions are posing challenges to Thailand's democratic institutions and processes.

"We certainly don't take sides in Thailand's political disputes, but we continue to urge all sides to commit to sincere dialogue to resolve political differences peacefully and democratically," she told reporters in Washington.

ASIA BRIEFS

Police: Bomb blast in Pakistani cinema kills 5

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say a bomb attack in a cinema in the north-western city of Peshawar has killed five people. Police official Zahid Khan says the explosion on Sunday night also wounded 30 people. Another official, Faisal Mukhtar, says the attacker was apparently sitting in the audience in the crowded cinema before hurling two hand grenades in the dark. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Koreas to hold talks this week on family reunions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The rival Koreas have agreed to hold talks Wednesday on arranging the first reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War in more than three years, officials said Monday. North Korea agreed 10 days ago to restart the reunions and asked South Korea to pick the date. The South subsequently chose Feb. 17-22 and proposed that talks be held to discuss the details. But North Korea didn't respond for a week, drawing

complaints from South Korean officials. Breaking its week-long silence, North Korea sent a message on Monday proposing that the preparatory talks take place either Wednesday or Thursday at a border village, and that South Korea could pick the date, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry and North Korean state media.

China police catch man accused of killing 6

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police said Tuesday they had captured a man accused of killing six people in a jealous rage on the eve of the Lunar New Year festival. A local government spokesman said Shao Zongqi had been caught Monday after four days on the run. The 38-year-old is suspected of killing two men he believed were having affairs with his wife, along with the men's wives, two boys and an elderly man. The killings took place Friday, the evening before the start of the Lunar New Year when families gather to feast, drink and set off fireworks. The victims and killer were residents of Yunnan province's Tengcheng county. The Tengcheng government spokesman, who gave only

his surname, Nang, said Shao carried out the killings with a semi-automatic rifle.

China navy holds Indian Ocean drills

BEIJING (AP)—A three-ship Chinese navy squadron has concluded exercises in the Indian Ocean and sailed on to the western Pacific, showing off the growing reach of the country's seagoing forces. State broadcaster CCTV said Tuesday the squadron includes China's largest amphibious landing ship, the Changbaishan, along with a pair of destroyers. It said they reached the Indian Ocean on Jan. 29 and carried out a series of drills on the themes of counter-piracy, search and rescue, and damage control. Although not directly targeted at India, the exercises underscore China's rivalry with the other Asian giant.

Magnitude-6.1 earthquake hits Indonesia

GOLDEN, Colorado (AP)—The U.S. Geological Survey says a magnitude-6.1 earthquake has been recorded in Indonesia. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center has no warning in effect. The Geological Sur-

vey report says the quake hit 197 miles (318 kilometers) east of Dili, East Timor, just after 1730 GMT. The quake's depth was recorded at 11 miles (18 kilometers). Indonesia is located on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

Sri Lanka leader hits out at likely UN resolution

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's president says it will be a "grave crime" if anyone brings war crime allegations against his government over its conduct in the final months of a quarter-century civil war, adding it would be a victory to forces opposed to peace in the island nation. Mahinda Rajapaksa did not mention any country in an Independence Day speech Tuesday, but the United States has said that it is frustrated at Sri Lanka's lack of progress in post-war reconciliation and accountability and says it will bring a third resolution to the United Nations human rights body calling on Sri Lanka to do more. Details of the resolution have not been revealed. Rajapaksa vowed not be frightened by the proposed resolution.

Watchdog shows illicit money flows in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—An anti-graft watchdog said Tuesday the Philippine government was cheated of \$3.85 billion in tax revenues in 2011, part of massive illicit money flows that totaled more than \$400 billion in the past five decades.

Global Financial Integrity said in a report that illicit financial outflows including proceeds from crime, corruption and tax evasion totaled \$132.9 billion in a 52 year period from 1960.

Another \$277.6 billion illegally entered the country, predominantly through false invoicing of imports to evade tariffs.

It said the government has lost at least \$23 billion in revenue from customs evasion since 1990 and lost an average of \$1.46 billion in tax revenue each year since 2000.

The report estimated that the underground economy was equal to nearly 30 percent of gross domestic product in 2011.

The watchdog's chief

economist Dev Kar, who co-authored the report with economist Brian LeBlanc, said illicit outflows have grown from an average of 2 percent of GDP in 1970s and 1980s to 5 percent of GDP since 2000.

"Illicit outflows drain billions of dollars from the official Philippine economy, money that could otherwise be used to help the nation's economy grow," said GFI Managing Director Tom Cardamone, an international financial crime expert.

"At the same time, the illicit inflow of capital and merchandise is perhaps even more insidious: it fuels crime, grows the underground economy, and costs the government billions of dollars each year in lost customs duties."

LeBlanc said the \$3.85 billion of lost tax revenue in 2011 was more than twice the size of the fiscal deficit and equal to 95 percent of the total government expenditure on social benefits that year.

World

Al-Qaida breaks with Syria group in mounting feud

CAIRO (AP)—Al-Qaida's central leadership broke with one of its most powerful branch commanders in an apparent attempt to stem the deadly infighting that has erupted in Syria among the militant Islamic factions trying to bring down President Bashar Assad.

More broadly, the announcement Monday appeared to be a move by al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri to reassert the terror network's prominence in the jihad movement across the Middle East amid the mushrooming of extremist groups during the upheaval of the past three years.

The dispute is between al-

Qaida's central leadership and a faction known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the head of al-Qaida's branch in Iraq, formed the Islamic State last spring to expand his operations into neighboring Syria, defying direct orders by al-Zawahri not to do so. Al-Zawahri named a different group, the Nusra Front, as al-Qaida's branch in Syria.

Now, the break is likely to spark a competition for resources and fighters between the two sides in what has become a civil war within a civil war. The test for al-Zawahri's influence will be whether his decision leads

fighters to quit the Islamic State.

In Washington, which has viewed the increasing influence of Islamic extremism in Syria's rebel movement with unease, State Department spokesman Jen Psaki noted that both the Islamic State and the Nusra Front are considered terrorist organizations.

As for al-Qaida's attempt to distance itself from the Islamic State, she said: "There's no way for me to evaluate what it will mean in the months ahead."

In a conflict that has seen atrocities by all sides, the Islamic State has been particularly vicious.

It is believed to be dominated by thousands of non-Syrian

jihadi fighters, and is seen by others in the rebellion as more concerned with venting sectarian hatreds and creating a transnational Islamic caliphate than with toppling Assad.

Since its creation, it has taken over swaths of territory in Syria, often imposing severe Shariah law penalties.

Its fighters have beheaded captured government fighters, carried out some of the deadliest massacres against pro-Assad minorities and kidnapped anti-Assad activists, journalists and civilians seen as critical of its rule.

It has increasingly clashed with other factions, particularly

an umbrella group of Syrian rebels called the Islamic Front, which accuses it of trying to hijack the campaign to oust Assad. Even the group's name, Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, was seen as a declaration that the group was the only real Islamic movement in the country.

Those frictions erupted into outright warfare in January. Since Jan. 3, more than 1,700 people have been killed in fighting between Islamic State and other factions, according to the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

At the same time, al-Baghdadi has brought his group back

to the forefront in his homeland Iraq. The past month, his fighters rose up and virtually took over main cities in Iraq's western Anbar province. That has made al-Baghdadi a powerful force in the jihadi movement.

With Monday's statement, al-Qaida appeared intent on undercutting al-Baghdadi's allure by making clear he was not supported by the central leadership.

Al-Qaida's general command announced it has "no connection" with the Islamic State, underlined that the group "is not a branch of the al-Qaida organization," and said al-Qaida "is not responsible for its actions."

Student kills teacher, policeman in Moscow school

MOSCOW (AP)—A 10th-grade student with two rifles burst into his Moscow school on Monday, killing his geography teacher and a policeman in front of about 20 students, investigators said. His father played a key role in freeing those students before police stormed the classroom and took his son into custody, the city police chief said.

The student gunman also seriously wounded a second police officer who had responded to an alarm from the school, investigators said.

None of the approximately 400 children in School No. 263 at the time were hurt, said Karina Sabitova, a police spokeswoman. But students were so fearful that some ran from the building with their teachers without stopping to put on coats in below-freezing temperatures. The school in northeast Moscow is for children in grades one through 11.

Such shootings in Russian schools are extremely rare. Any attack on a school, however, unavoidably brings back memories of the Beslan school siege in 2004, when Islamic militants from Russia's North Caucasus took about 1,000 people hostage, most of them children. More than 300 hostages were killed when Russian security forces stormed that school.

Russia is also now on alert for terrorist attacks, especially after Islamic militants asserted responsibility for twin suicide



Police officers evacuate children from a Moscow school on Monday, Feb. 3, 2014.

bombings in the city of Volgograd in December and threatened to strike during the Sochi Winter Olympics, which begin Friday in the Black Sea resort.

Monday's attack, however, raised no suspicions of any link to terrorism.

The ethnic Russian teenager entered the school after threatening its security guard, who managed to hit an alarm before following the student to his classroom, said Vladimir Markin, spokesman for Russia's Investigative Committee, its main investigative agency.

"Without saying a word, he fired several shots at the geography teacher," Markin said.

Markin identified the teenager as Sergei Gordeyev and said he was an excellent student who apparently had an emotional breakdown. Gordeyev fired at least 11 times from a small-caliber rifle, also killing one police officer and wounding a second, Markin said.

The youth's father was immediately called to the school. He spoke to his son on the phone for 15 minutes to try to persuade him to let the 20 or so students

in the classroom leave, but the boy refused, Moscow police chief Anatoly Yakunin said in televised remarks.

The father, wearing a bullet-proof vest provided by police, then went into the classroom. About 30 minutes later, the trapped students walked out, leaving the father and son alone in the classroom, and police special forces stormed in, Yakunin said.

Investigators were questioning Gordeyev, his classmates, school staff and the security guard to try to determine why he shot the teacher, Markin said.

Sochi city hall orders killing of stray dogs

SOCHI, Russia (AP)—Thousands of stray dogs have been living amid the mud and rubble of Olympic construction sites, roaming the streets and snowy mountainsides, and begging for scraps of food.

But as the games drew near, authorities have turned to a company to catch and kill the animals so they don't bother Sochi's new visitors—or even wander into an Olympic event.

Alexei Sorokin, director general of pest control firm Basya Services, told The Associated Press that his company had a contract to exterminate the animals throughout the Olympics, which open Friday.

Sorokin described his company as being involved in the "catching and disposing" of dogs, although he refused to specify how the dogs would be killed or say where they would take the carcasses.

The dogs have been causing numerous problems, Sorokin said Monday, including "biting children."

He said he was stunned last week when he attended a rehearsal for the opening ceremony and saw a stray dog

walking in on the performers.

"A dog ran into the Fisht Stadium, we took it away," he said. "God forbid something like this happens at the actual opening ceremony. This will be a disgrace for the whole country."

The strays tend to gather near construction sites where they have gotten food and shelter from workers. Dogs have even been able to get inside the Olympic Park and accredited hotel complexes and villages, in the coastal cluster of arenas and venues up in the mountains.

A pack of at least a half-dozen healthy-looking dogs roamed around a loading zone of a gondola, 400 meters (1,200 feet) above the Gorki Plaza in the mountain venues for the Olympics as construction work continued late Sunday.

Olympic volunteers patted and cooed over strays that trotted into the park Monday. Another dog dropped to the ground, sunbathing under the Olympic Rings near a public site where medals will be presented to athletes during the games.



Stray dogs sit outside the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park course, a venue for the snowboarding and freestyle competitions of the 2014 Winter Olympics, in Sochi, Russia, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014.

South Africa: Mandela's will worth \$4.1 million

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Nelson Mandela's estate, worth roughly \$4.1 million, will be shared between his family, members of his staff, schools that he attended and the African National Congress, the movement that fought white rule and now governs South Africa, the will's executors said Monday.

Mandela's third wife, Graca Machel, is the main beneficiary of the will because their marriage was "in community

of property" and she therefore has the right to half his estate, as long as she claims it within 90 days, said executor Dikgang Moseneke, who is also deputy chief justice of the Constitutional Court. Graca Machel's first husband, President Samora Machel of Mozambique, died in a plane crash in 1986.

Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, was not mentioned in the will. The couple divorced in 1996.

Moseneke said he is not aware of any challenges to the provisions of the will. Mandela, a prisoner during white racist rule who became South Africa's first black president, died Dec. 5 at age 95.

Moseneke outlined a "provisional inventory" of 46 million South African rand, or \$4.1 million, but cautioned the amount could change as the will is studied more carefully. The document was drawn up in 2004,

and was amended in 2005 and 2008. Two other executors are George Bizos, a human rights lawyer and longtime friend of Mandela, and Themba Sangoni, a chief judge from Eastern Cape province, Mandela's birthplace.

Earlier Monday, the will was read in its entirety to members of Mandela's family.

"It went well," Moseneke said at a news conference. "There were clarifications sought from time to time."

Focus

By TIM ENGLE
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Here's something cheery to contemplate. Suppose tomorrow you're hit by a bus/18-wheeler/SUV/exceptionally large bicycle. And die.

Are your affairs in order?

This is the month for making resolutions, and you might as well go straight to the top. Yes, you probably need to exercise more. Yes, you probably could eat better.

But what do you really, really need to do?

You need to prepare for your death.

You need a will (probably), you need advanced health care directives if you end up in the hospital, you need to leave your loved ones a list of instructions.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL ...

You can probably come up with any number of reasons not to write your will. It sounds intimidating. It sounds expensive. Worst of all, you actually have to think about dying.

Then again, don't you want to be the one who decides who'll raise your (minor) children in your absence? Who'll get your collection of old TV Guides? (Not to mention possessions that are actually worth something.)

"It irks me when people take the attitude of 'I'll be dead, so why should I care?'" says Dan Mathews, a certified financial planner with Stepp & Rothwell Inc. in Overland Park, Kan., and a member of the Financial Planning Association of Greater Kansas City.

But it's irresponsible, he says, not to have a plan in place for your estate.

"You want people to remember you for the good things you did, not the mess you left," Mathews says.

Think you're too young to have to worry about this? About 1 in 8 of today's 20-year-olds will die before reaching age 67, according to the Social Security Administration.

There are plenty of books and online resources on estate planning, but if you go the do-it-yourself route you should still consult a lawyer before executing a will. "There are too many pitfalls," Mathews says, including laws that vary from state to state.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL SUBSTITUTE ...

It might take a chunk of time to list your assets, decide who gets them and then put it all down in a will. But there's one thing you can do right now: Make sure you have beneficiaries on file for your life insurance policy, retirement accounts and the like.

If you have registered those beneficiaries already, make sure the names (and percentages each gets) are up-to-date after major life events.

Designating beneficiaries—with an insurance company or mutual funds company or whatever—is known as a will substitute, says financial adviser Barbara McMahon, president of Innovest Financial Partners in Kansas City.

"Registration rules," she says. "It doesn't matter what the will says."

So, for instance, if a guy remarried but never changed the beneficiary of his 401(k) account from first wife to second wife, the first wife gets the dough if he dies—even if his will states otherwise.

McMahon is not suggesting, by the way, that you don't need a will. A will can

Are you ready for death? Resolve to get your affairs in order

make your wishes clear about whatever you own. Otherwise, your kids may start World War III over your TV Guides.

Another will substitute: the old T.O.D., "transfer on death."

That "classic" car of your dad's? He might have listed you as the T.O.D. beneficiary on the clunker's title. Again, McMahon says, T.O.D. trumps the will.

There's also P.O.D., "payable on death," for such assets as checking and savings accounts.

Low-income property owners without the means to execute a will should consider a beneficiary deed, aka a transfer-on-death deed. It's like the T.O.D. notation on a car title, but it gets filed with the recorder of deeds, says Gregg Lombardi, executive director of Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

He gives this example. Say an older woman owns a home. She dies without a will. Her adult daughter moves into the mom's house. Five years go by, and the house needs

a new roof. The daughter goes to the bank for a loan but discovers her dead mom still owns the house.

"By that time it costs

\$10,000 or more to bring action to clear the title," Lombardi says. If the daughter can't afford that, she finds herself stuck in a house that she doesn't own and can't afford to maintain. Ultimately she may walk away from the house, which is likely to become just one more blighted, abandoned property.

If the mother had filed a beneficiary deed, a simple two-page document, ownership would have transferred immediately to the daughter.

HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES

You never know when you'll wind up in the hospital. Now's the time to consider when (to put it bluntly) you want the plug pulled. Also, you need to designate someone who can make health care decisions for you when you can't speak for yourself.

The forms to fill out are a health care treatment directive (sometimes called a living will) and a durable power of attorney for health care decisions.

These forms are available online for free from various sources, including the Kansas City-based Center for Practical Bioethics. Go to practicalbioethics.org and click Resources, then Caring Conversations. You'll have to provide your name and email address to download information and forms (also available in Spanish).

"Caring Conversations for Young Adults" includes guidance on how to talk about organ donation, do-not-resuscitate orders and serious illness.

TIME TO WRITE A LETTER

By putting pen to paper, or fingertips to keyboard, you can tell your nearest and dearest just how much you love them. But you should also tell them things like where you have bank accounts, where the keys to the safe deposit box are and your email and Facebook passwords ... just for starters.

And after you've written that letter, make sure your family and friends know about it.

McMahon says that her mother, when she was dying of cancer, told her adult children she'd left them an envelope on the coffee table in the living room. "And it had everything in it," McMahon says.

Jeanne Fleming, co-author with Leonard Schwarz of the Money Manners column (which appears Sundays in the Kansas City Star Magazine), notes that in many households one person handles the investments. If that's you, write a memo explaining where they are, how they work and how they should be handled. Also include the name of someone who can help the executor and beneficiaries make sense of it all.

"Digital assets" are something our great-grandparents never had to worry about, Mathews says. Nowadays, though, you should leave a note with all your online user names, passwords and security-question answers, he says. (Doesn't have to be a note, by the way; you could put that information on a USB drive, for instance.)

Especially if you live alone and have pets, you should also give some thought to who will care for them after you're gone and maybe provide some money for that. Put pet-care instructions in your letter, too.

None of this, we know, sounds like a funfest.

But "having an estate plan in place does give you peace of mind," Mathews says.

"People have this fear of their mortality and don't want to face it. But when they come out on the other side, they think, gosh, that wasn't so bad."



Campus Life

Despite safety emphasis, school shootings continue

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's been no real reduction in the number of U.S. school shootings despite increased security put in place after the rampage at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012.

In Pennsylvania and New Mexico, Colorado and Tennessee, and elsewhere, gunfire has echoed through school hallways, and killed students or their teachers in some cases. "Lockdown" is now part of the school vocabulary.

An Associated Press analysis finds that there have been at least 11 school shootings this academic year alone, in addition to other cases of gun violence, in school parking lots and elsewhere on campus, when classes were not in session.

Last August, for example, a gun discharged in a 5-year-old's backpack while students were waiting for the opening bell in the cafeteria at Westside Elementary School in Memphis. No one was hurt.

Experts say the rate of school shootings is statistically unchanged since the mid- to late-1990s, yet still remains troubling.

Ronald Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, said there have been about 500 school-associated violent deaths in the past 20 years.

The numbers don't include a string of recent shootings at colleges and universities. Just last week, a man was shot and critically wounded at the Palm Bay Campus of Eastern Florida State



In this Dec. 15, 2012 file photo, shop owner Tamara Doherty paces outside her store just down the road from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. Although still relatively rare, there's been no real reduction in the number of school shootings since security was beefed up around the country with measures such as safety drills and the hiring of police officers.

College, according to police.

Finding factors to blame, rightfully or not, is almost the easy part: bad parenting, easy access to guns, less value for the sanctity of life, violent video games, a broken mental health system.

Stopping the violence isn't. "I think that's one of the major problems. There are not easy answers," Stephens said. "A line I often use is do everything you can, knowing you can't do everything."

Bill Bond, who was principal at Heath High School in West Paducah in 1997 when a 14-year-old freshman fired on a prayer group,

killing three female students and wounding five, sees few differences in how shootings are carried out today. The one consistency, he said, is that the shooters are males confronting hopelessness.

"You see troubled young men who are desperate and they strike out and they don't see that they have any hope," Bond said.

Schools generally are much safer than they were five, 10 or 15 years ago, Stephens said. While a single death is one too many, Stephens noted that perspective is important. In Chicago there were 500 homicides in

2012, about the same number in the nation's 132,000-plus K-12 schools over two decades.

"I believe schools are much safer than they used to be but clearly they still have a good ways to go," Stephens said.

The recent budget deal in Congress provides \$140 million to support safe school environments, and is a \$29 million increase, according to the office of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

About 90 percent of districts have tightened security since

the Newtown shootings, estimates Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Many schools now have elaborate school safety plans and more metal detectors, surveillance cameras and fences. They've taken other steps, too, such as requiring ID badges and dress codes. Similar to fire drills, some schools practice locking down classrooms, among their responses to potential violence.

The incident involving the 5-year-old in Memphis led to the use of hand-held metal detecting wands inside elementary schools in Shelby County's school district.

Attention also has focused on hiring school resource officers, sworn law enforcement officers who are trained to work in a school environment, said Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers. He said his organization estimates there are about 10,000 of them in the U.S.

Canady said it was such an officer who helped avert more bloodshed at Arapahoe High School in the Denver suburb of Centennial when an 18-year-old student took a shotgun into the building on Dec. 13 and fatally shot another student.

Since the shootings at Colorado's Columbine High School in 1999, in which two students killed 12 classmates and a teacher and wounded 26 others before killing themselves,

police nationwide have adopted "active shooter" policies where officers are trained to confront a shooter immediately.

"The goal is to stop it, from the law enforcement side, stop it as quickly as you can because we know with an active shooter if you don't stop it, more lives will be lost," Canady said.

Confronting a shooter certainly carries risks.

In Sparks, Nev., math teacher Michael Landsberry was killed in November after calmly approaching a 12-year-old with a gun and asked him to put the weapon down, witnesses said. The boy, who had wounded two classmates, killed himself.

Weingarten said more emphasis needs to be placed on improving school cultures by ensuring schools have resources for counselors, social workers and after-care programs. Many of these kinds of programs were scaled back during budget cuts of recent years.

Experts have said a healthy school culture can prevent such incidents and even lead students to tell adults about classmates who display warning signs that they could commit such violence.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan told reporters Thursday that he also believes strong mental health support systems in schools are important. But he said schools are doing a "fantastic" job with school security and often schools are the safest place in a community.

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
AP EDUCATION WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Giancarlo Tello paid \$14,000 more than other New Jersey high school graduates to attend Rutgers University, the state's flagship public college.

Why the difference?

Tello spent much of his childhood in the U.S. without legal permission after his parents moved from Peru when he was 6.

That changes if he re-enrolls this fall, as he plans, thanks to a law recently signed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie that provides in-state tuition to immigrants like him.

Supporters of immigrants' rights are energized because after years of contentious fights, New Jersey and three other states passed statutes last year that will allow such students who came to the U.S. when they were minors to pay in-state tuition.

Fifteen states now have such a statute, said Ann Morse of the National Conference of State Legislatures. In addition, university boards in Hawaii, Michigan and Rhode Island have granted these students in-state tuition. To qualify, high school graduates typically must meet

More US states grant tuition to immigrants

requirements such as living in a state for a set number of years.

Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Mississippi, New Hampshire and Virginia have bills under consideration that would extend the in-state benefit, said Tanya Broder, a senior attorney with the National Immigration Law Center.

Supporters next plan to step up lobbying on a related issue: making these students eligible for state financial aid, including scholarships or grants. Already, California, New Mexico and Texas have laws spelling out this right, and it is under consideration in states such as Washington.

Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Jared Polis filed a bill in Congress that would provide money to states that offer in-state tuition or financial aid to these students.

"It's an economic issue, and it's an issue of fairness," Murray said.

In this time of financial austerity, the bill faces a difficult road.

The students are known as "Dreamers"—from the short-hand for legislation stymied in Congress that provides a way for them to permanently remain



Yves Gomes, a student at the University of Maryland, who's parents were deported, poses for a photo inside his great uncle's house where he lives in Silver Spring, Md., Friday Jan. 17, 2014. Gomes says he considers himself one of the lucky ones—lucky, at least, among the so-called "DREAMers." Even though his parents were deported and his legal status was once in limbo, today the 21-year-old Indian native attends the University of Maryland paying in-state tuition.

in the U.S. The measure's full title is the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act).

Lacking legal immigration status, the students typically aren't eligible for federal financial aid and many other aid programs.

But in many cases they are able to remain in the United

States under President Barack Obama's 2012 "deferred action" program. That allows immigrants brought illegally into the United States as children by their parents to obtain temporary resident status for two years. The status is renewable.

Tello and Yves Gomes, 21, who was brought to the U.S. from

India as a toddler, signed up.

Gomes attends the University of Maryland and pays in-state tuition, which he had lobbied for. But he says in some cases that isn't enough. He called for state and other financial aid, especially for those who don't qualify for Maryland's in-state tuition benefit.

Tuition and fees for Maryland residents come to about \$9,000 this academic year, compared with more than \$28,000 for those from other states. That doesn't include thousands more in room and board.

"I met so many friends who are off and on in school just because they have to take time off to help their families put food on the table. You have to survive," Gomes said.

The issue of what educational benefits should be available to immigrants living illegally in the country has been contentious. Critics say helping the students encourages unlawful behavior and means they potentially take someone else's seat at taxpayers' expense.

"I don't understand why they would take taxpayer dol-

lars that could be going to U.S. citizens and instead subsidizing the education of noncitizens who could also be deported," said Kris Kobach, the Republican secretary of state in Kansas who has litigated immigration-related cases. "Why would you subsidize a workforce that may not be there tomorrow?"

Kansas passed a law in 2004 that granted the in-state tuition benefit to students living in the country illegally.

Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, South Carolina and Indiana bar the in-state benefit altogether, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. In Wisconsin, in-state tuition was authorized in 2009, but later repealed.

Politicians have taken heat on both sides.

In the 2012 Republican presidential primary, Texas Gov. Rick Perry ended up apologizing after saying critics of in-state tuition for students in the country illegally "did not have a heart." In last year's gubernatorial race in Virginia, Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli was dogged during his unsuccessful campaign by a vote opposing the in-state tuition benefit earlier in his career.

Life & Style

Leno: 2nd 'Tonight exit' is quits for late-night

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Jay Leno, as affably efficient backstage as he is in front of the camera, avoids waxing poetic about his 22-year "Tonight Show" run that draws to a close Thursday.

Instead, he relies on numbers to tell the story. Leno's tenure is second only to Johnny Carson's 30 years; "Tonight" was No. 1 among viewers when he took it over and will be when he hands it off to Jimmy Fallon; he'll have taped more shows than any predecessor, Carson included, with the final and 4,610th one.

His dry assessment also may stem from a case of déjà vu. After all, he lived through this before when he surrendered "Tonight" in 2009 to Conan O'Brien, only to reclaim it after NBC's messy bobbling of the transition and O'Brien's lackluster ratings.

But this time it's different, Leno contends, offering another hard fact: The older generation has to make way for the younger one.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II can keep 65-year-old Prince Charles cooling his heels. Leno doesn't have the power to do the same with Fallon, 39. The "Late Night" host is moving the show from its longtime Burbank home, near Johnny Carson Park and off Bob Hope Drive, to its New York birthplace when he debuts as host on Feb. 17.

"It's been a wonderful job but this is the right time to leave," said Leno, whose once-dark mop of hair is now a neatly groomed silver. "I'm

at that age where I don't really listen to the (current) music anymore. I'm not a big tweet guy. A 63-year-old guy reading Miley Cyrus' tweets is a little creepy. Move on."

He makes the argument with the precision of one of his reliable monologue jokes, just as he did when he claimed to understand NBC's decision to evict him for O'Brien—even as he reamed the network on the air.

The years between then and now have seen changes come at a quickening pace, with an ever-more crowded late-night arena and a shifting media environment. Fallon's parody music bits with contemporaries like Justin Timberlake are perfect cut-and-pastes for sites like YouTube that drive young viewer attention and offer new potential for ad sales as network revenues shrink.

In 2012, "Tonight" laid off 20 staffers and Leno took a 10 percent pay cut. The show has averaged a 3.5 million nightly viewership in the past 12 months, which pales in comparison with the double-digit audiences it once claimed.

Leno is planning to expand the comedy club gigs he never abandoned and various outlets for his automotive passion, including the Web show "Jay Leno's Garage," and the magazine and newspaper pieces he writes. He insists his schedule won't include another late-night show, which could only be what he calls "Tonight Light."

"It's hard to re-create this



This Jan. 30, 2014, photo provided by NBC shows Miley Cyrus, left, during an interview with host Jay Leno, on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno."

moment. It's like the fighter coming back. You got to be world champion, so it's kind of silly," he said.

"Tonight," which launched in 1954, was shaped by original host Steve Allen and nurtured by successors Jack Paar and Carson. Following them represented the pinnacle for comedians, and it was the role Leno coveted and won upon Carson's 1992 retirement.

His first few months were marred by Leno's longtime manager Helen Kushnick, who, as his first "Tonight" executive producer, was blamed for instigating nasty guest booking wars and fired in what then was char-

acterized as one of TV's biggest publicity nightmares.

Worse was to come, when NBC's "Tonight" host succession plan hatched in 2004 went awry. Leno, who stoically endured insults from Jimmy Kimmel and others who portrayed him as having stolen O'Brien's job, says the past is past. CBS' Letterman, who once jockeyed with Leno for Carson's throne, echoed that.

"How long can I carry this with me?" he told Howard Stern during a SiriusXM interview Friday. He spoke of calling Leno when his second "Tonight" departure was announced, their first conversation

in several years, and tipped his hat to his rival when Stern asked if Leno sounded sad.

"I wouldn't say sad. There's nothing to be sad about. He's had a tremendous career there," Letterman said, graciously.

Others have chimed in. "Politically Incorrect" host Bill Maher, a regular "Tonight" guest, and Seth MacFarlane ("Family Guy," "Ted") serenaded Leno last week to the tune of "Thanks for the Memories." It was reminiscent of Bette Midler's saucy "You Made Me Watch You" tribute to Carson. This parody was edgier.

"You've been retired and twice been fired for being No.

1. How stupid they are," the pair sang, zinging NBC as a surprised, bemused Leno watched.

Maher was expansive when asked to comment on Leno.

"As a performer trying to make it in show business, and as a human being, you cannot do better than ask, 'What would Jay do?'" Maher said in an email Saturday.

Leno's final show will feature Billy Crystal, his first "Tonight" guest, and Garth Brooks. Leno's legacy—a word that makes him squirm—might include expanding the show's opening monologue; a memorable mea culpa from Hugh Grant after he was arrested in 1995 with a prostitute; the first interview with a sitting president, Barack Obama, in 2009; and the "Jay-walking" fixture, which trips up people with simple questions.

Leno's favorite Q&A is that those queried about how Mount Rushmore was formed often reply, "erosion." His head-shaking reaction: "The wind and rain not only picked four presidents, it picked four of our greatest presidents!"

Was he the most daring, most innovative, most surprising force in late-night? His critics and even clear-eyed admirers said no, and Leno doesn't argue with them—but that's not what counts, he adds: "Whether you like the host or not, you cannot say it's not been a success. A football team might not have the most sophisticated players but can win the Super Bowl."

Former 2nd lady Joan Mondale dies at age 83

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Joan Mondale, who burnished a reputation as "Joan of Art" for her passionate advocacy for the arts while her husband was vice president and a U.S. ambassador, died Monday. She was 83.

Walter Mondale, sons Ted and William and other family members were by her side when she died, the family said in a statement released by their church. The family had announced Sunday that she had gone into hospice care, but declined to discuss her illness.

"Joan was greatly loved by many. We will miss her dearly," the former vice president said in a written statement.

An arts lover and an avid potter, Joan Mondale was given a grand platform to promote the arts when Walter, then a Democratic senator, was elected Jimmy Carter's vice president in 1976.

Carter named her honorary chairwoman of the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities, and in that role she frequently traveled to museums,

theaters and artist studios on the administration's behalf. She lobbied Congress and states to boost public arts programs and funding.

She also showcased the work of prominent artists in the vice presidential residence, including photographer Ansel Adams, sculptor David Smith and painter Georgia O'Keeffe.

Her enthusiasm for the cause earned widespread praise in the arts community, including from Jim Melchert, director of the visual arts program for the National Endowment for the Arts during Carter's administration.

"Your rare fire has brightened many a day for more people than you may imagine," Melchert wrote to her after the 1980 Carter-Mondale re-election defeat. "What you've done with style and seeming ease will continue illuminating our world for a long time to come."

As Carter's No. 2, Walter Mondale was seen as a trusted adviser and credited with making the office of the vice president more relevant. It was natu-

ral that his wife would do the same for her role. Vice presidential aide Al Eisele once said of his boss: "It was important to him that Joan not just be the vice president's wife, but his partner."

Joan Mondale would later take her cultural zeal overseas when her husband was named U.S. ambassador to Japan during President Bill Clinton's administration.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar first met Joan Mondale while working as an intern for the vice president in 1980. Klobuchar still has two coffee mugs on her kitchen table that were made by Joan.

"She was always down to earth," Klobuchar said Monday. "She was just as happy going out to rural farms in Elmore (Minn.) as she was mixing it up at fancy receptions at the ambassador's residence in Japan."

During her husband's ambassadorship, she relished the chance to study Japanese art and give dignitaries clay pots she made as gifts. In her 1972 book,



In this Oct. 30, 2002 photo, Joan Mondale poses for a photo at her home in Minneapolis.

"Politics in Art," Joan Mondale framed a connection between the two.

"Sometimes we do not realize how important our participation in politics is. Often we need to be reminded of our duty as citizens," she wrote. "Artists can do just that; they can look at our politicians, our institutions and our problems to help us understand them better."

She was born Joan Adams in Eugene, Ore., on Aug. 8, 1930. She and her two sisters moved

several times during childhood as their father, a Presbyterian minister, took new assignments. The family finally settled in St. Paul, Minn., where Joan would earn an undergraduate degree at Macalester College.

It was the same liberal arts school that Walter Mondale attended, but they were a few years apart and didn't meet until 1955, when one of Joan's sisters arranged a blind date. Six months later they were engaged, and they married soon after.

She dabbled in Democratic Party politics as a ward chairwoman, though she focused on her family as her husband built his political career, starting with state attorney general. Joan tended to a family that would eventually include sons Ted and William and a daughter, Eleanor, who died in 2011 after a long battle with brain cancer.

When Walter Mondale was tapped to fill the Senate seat vacated by Vice President-elect Hubert Humphrey in 1964, the family headed to Washington.

There, Joan Mondale immersed herself in the capital's art scene. She gave weekly tours at the National Gallery of Art and took pottery lessons. Even when her husband was campaigning as Carter's vice president, she tried to keep up with regular ceramics classes.

More recently, she sat on the U.S. Postal Service panel that has a role in selecting stamp designs. She gave up her seat on that committee in 2010.

A service is scheduled for Saturday at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Official: Heroin in packets in Hoffman's apartment

NEW YORK (AP)—Tests have confirmed there was heroin in at least some of the scores of plastic packets in the New York City apartment where Philip Seymour Hoffman was found dead, a law enforcement official said Monday, and authorities are working to determine whether the drug was mixed or tainted with anything else.

Medical examiners have not yet made an official determination of the cause of the 46-year-old actor's death, but police have been investigating it as a suspected overdose. Hoffman was found in a bathroom with a syringe in his arm, law enforcement officials have said.

A few details have begun to sketch a picture of his final day and the circumstances in which he was found in his apartment in Manhattan's Greenwich Village on Sunday. And questions have swirled about whether Hoffman's death could be linked to a potent blend of heroin and synthetic morphine that has been tied to deaths elsewhere, though as yet there are no official findings pointing to that scenario.

"The direction of the investigation is going to depend, in large part, on the findings of the medical examiner and the findings of the lab tests," chief police spokesman Stephen Davis said.

An autopsy began Monday, but results weren't expected until at least Tuesday, the city medical examiners' office said.

A friend had spoken to him by phone around 9 p.m. Saturday, in the last contact investigators are aware of anyone having with him, a law enforcement official said. The official said the actor's door was double-locked when his body was found around 11:30 a.m. the next day by the same friend and Hoffman's assistant.

In the apartment were at least four dozen small packets variously stamped with the ace of hearts and others with the ace of spades, two law enforcement officials said Monday. Tests of samples showed heroin in each type, one of the officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk about the evidence gathered.

Authorities also found unused syringes, a



A makeshift memorial is seen, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, outside the building where the body of actor Philip Seymour Hoffman was found in New York.

AP

charred spoon and various prescription medications, including a blood-pressure drug and a muscle relaxant, one of the officials said.

Stamps are common as a form of drug-world branding, and authorities make note of the ones they encounter, though they're hardly trademarks—different producers might use the same symbol. It wasn't immediately clear whether the ace of hearts and ace of spades stamps could lead investigators to any clues about the source of the items found in Hoffman's apartment.

Concern has risen around the region in recent months about fentanyl, a synthetic morphine substitute roughly 100 times more powerful than morphine, being mixed with or substituted for heroin. In western Pennsylvania, 22 people died within a week last month from suspected overdoses of heroin and fentanyl, Attorney General Kathleen Kane said last week; at least a half-dozen suspected dealers have been charged there.

On New York's Long Island, the Nassau County medical examiner's office said Friday it was in-

vestigating several deaths initially assumed to be heroin overdoses but later found to have involved fentanyl being sold in packets stamped "24K."

In New York City, a fentanyl-heroin blend cropped up recently in a case against a man charged last month with running a sizeable heroin and cocaine ring. In one of various alleged deals, he sold a 200-gram package of powder that later tested positive for both heroin and fentanyl, a prosecutor's office spokeswoman said Monday.

Philip Seymour Hoffman fans mourn, tout his talent

NEW YORK (AP)—He was only 46, busy as ever and secure in his standing as one of the world's greatest actors.

There were no dissenters about the gifts and achievements of Philip Seymour Hoffman, whose death Sunday in New York brought a stunning halt to his extraordinary and unpredictable career.

An Oscar winner and multiple nominee, Hoffman could take on any character with almost unnerving authority, whether the religious leader in command of his every word in "The Master," a trembling mess in "Boogie Nights," or the witty, theatrical Truman Capote in "Capote."

Fearless in his choices, encyclopedic in his preparation, he was a Shakespearean performer in modern dress, bringing depth and variety to charlatans, slackers, curmudgeons and loners.

"Hearing that Philip Seymour Hoffman passed away came as much as a shock to me as to anyone else I'd imagine," says Anton Corbijn, director of "A Most Wanted Man," one of two films (the other being "In God's Pocket") starring Hoffman that premiered last month at the Sundance Film Festival.

"He was not only the most gifted actor I ever worked with," Corbijn added, "...he had also become an incredibly inspiring and supportive friend."

Friends, peers, family members and his countless fans were in grief after Hoffman was found in his Greenwich Village apartment with what law enforcement officials said was a syringe in his arm.

The two officials told The Associated Press that glassine envelopes containing what was believed to be heroin were also found with Hoffman. Those items are being tested.

The law enforcement officials, who spoke to

The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak about evidence found at the scene, said the cause of death was believed to be a drug overdose.

Police will only say the investigation is continuing. An autopsy is planned for Monday, according to medical examiner spokeswoman Julie Bolcer.

Besides his Oscar win for "Capote," the stage-trained Hoffman received four Academy Awards nominations and several nominations for theater awards, including three Tonys. He was equally acclaimed and productive, often appearing in at least two to three films a year, while managing an active life in the theater. He had been thriving for more than 20 years and no one doubted that a long, compelling run awaited him.

Like Laurence Olivier or Meryl Streep, his appeal was not bound by age or appearance or personality. He was not an actor whom audiences turned to for youth and romance. Heavy set with a lumpy build and limp, receding blond hair, he was a character actor with the power to play the lead, in movies that screened in both art houses and multiplexes.

"No words for this. He was too great and we're too shattered," said Mike Nichols, who directed Hoffman in "Charlie Wilson's War" and on stage in "Death of a Salesman."

Hoffman spoke candidly over the years about past struggles with drug addiction. After 23 years sober, he admitted in interviews last year to falling off the wagon and developing a heroin problem that led to a stint in rehab.

The law enforcement officials said Hoffman's body was discovered in a bathroom at his Greenwich Village apartment by a friend who made the 911 call and his assistant.

Late Sunday, crime-scene technicians carrying brown paper bags went in and out of Hoffman's building as officers held back a growing crowd of onlookers.

Hoffman's family called the news "tragic and sudden."

"We are devastated by the loss of our beloved Phil and appreciate the outpouring of love and support we have received from everyone," the family said in a statement.

With a range and discipline more common among British performers than Americans, Hoffman was convincing whether comic or dramatic, loathsome or sympathetic, powerless or diabolical.

In one of his earliest movie roles, he played a spoiled prep school student in "Scent of a Woman" in 1992. A breakthrough came for him as a gay member of a porno film crew in "Boogie Nights," one of several movies directed by Paul Thomas Anderson that Hoffman would eventually appear in. He played comic, off-kilter characters in "Along Came Polly" and "The Big Lebowski." He bantered unforgettably with Laura Linney as squabbling siblings in "The Savages." He was grumpy and idealistic as rock critic Lester Bangs in "Almost Famous." He was grumpy and cynical as baseball manager Art Howe in "Moneyball."

In "The Master," he was nominated for a 2013 Academy Award for best supporting actor for his role as the charismatic, controlling leader of a religious movement. The film, partly inspired by the life of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, reunited the actor with Anderson.

He also received a 2009 supporting nomination for "Doubt," as a priest who comes under suspicion because of his relationship with a boy, and a best supporting actor nomination for "Charlie

Wilson's War," as a CIA officer.

Many younger moviegoers know him as the scheming Plutarch Heavensbee in "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and he was reprising that role in the two-part sequel, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay," for which his work was mostly completed. The films are scheduled for November 2014 and November 2015 releases.

Just weeks ago, Showtime announced Hoffman would star in "Happyish," a new comedy series about a middle-aged man's pursuit of happiness.

Born in 1967 in Fairport, N.Y., Hoffman was an athletic boy, but a neck injury sustained while wrestling ended any hopes for a career in sports. He soon became interested in acting, mesmerized at 12 by a local production of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons." He studied theater as a teenager with the New York State Summer School of the Arts and the Circle in the Square Theatre. He then majored in drama at New York University.

In his Oscar acceptance speech for "Capote," he thanked his mother for raising him and his three siblings alone, and for taking him to his first play. Hoffman's parents divorced when he was 9.

On Broadway, he took on some of the stage's most ambitious parts—Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman," Jamie in "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and both leads in "True West." All three performances were Tony nominated.

Last year, Hoffman crossed to the other side of the footlights to direct Bob Glaudini's "A Family for All Occasions" for the Labyrinth Theatre Company, where he formerly served as co-artistic director. Hoffman has also directed "Jesus Hopped the A Train" and "Our Lady of 121st Street" for the company and received Drama Desk Award nominations for both productions.

Hoffman is survived by his partner of 15 years, Mimi O'Donnell, and their three children.

Judge says Chris Brown should remain in treatment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge turned down a prosecutor's motion Monday to send Chris Brown to jail, citing the R&B singer's continued good behavior and progress in a rehabilitation program.

Superior Court Judge James R. Brandlin said probation officials reported that Brown is making good progress in treatment and must remain in the program unless he is given permission by the court or his probation officer. Brown was sentenced to three months of in-patient rehab in November after the singer was arrested and charged with misdemeanor assault over an altercation several weeks earlier in Washington, D.C.

A prosecutor sought to have Brown thrown in jail during Monday's hearing and called for a full probation violation hearing, which would have resulted in evidence about the D.C. case being presented to Brandlin. Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Mary Murray cited the new case as the basis for removing Brown from rehab and placing him in custody.

"He continues to pose an increasingly violent danger to society," Murray wrote in a motion, citing the D.C. case and an incident in which Brown threw a brick through his mother's car

window after a therapy session.

Murray said she made the motion on Monday because she now had information about the man whose nose was allegedly broken in the attack that allegedly involved Brown and his bodyguard.

Brown's attorney Mark Geragos argued that the only changes in Brown's behavior since the December hearing were positive, and the court should wait to see how the D.C. case is resolved before having an evidentiary hearing. Brown's lawyers have said the singer is not guilty and rejected a plea deal; the case

is due back in court on Feb. 20.

Brown remains on probation for his 2009 attack on his then-girlfriend Rihanna hours before the Grammy Awards.

Brandlin ordered Brown to return to court on Feb. 28 to update him on his progress. He said the singer had already completed 191 of 1,000 hours of community labor that were ordered after Brandlin found the Grammy winner violated his probation after failing to exchange information properly after a car crash last year.

He said probation officials reported that Brown "appears to have a more serious and responsible demeanor" since checking into rehab.



Brown

Beckham to discuss effort to bring team to Miami

MIAMI (AP)—David Beckham will take part in a news conference Wednesday to discuss his progress in trying to bring a Major League Soccer expansion team to Miami.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez also will attend the session, which was announced Monday. The league has discussed placing its next two expansion teams in Miami and Atlanta.

Expansion in Miami is con-

tingent on securing a financing plan and location for a new stadium. Beckham has scouted possible sites and is seeking investors to assist with startup costs such as stadium construction and player acquisitions.

Among those who might become involved is Beckham's friend LeBron James, who has had recent conversations with the retired soccer star about bringing a team to Miami.

"It's looking very promising," James said Monday. "Hopefully



they can go in the right direction as we all planned. It's a great place for soccer."

MLS's Miami Fusion played in Fort Lauderdale from 1998-01 before folding because of poor attendance.

In a Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 file photo, former England soccer player and model David Beckham makes an appearance at H&M Times Square for his new men's underwear line, in New York.

Woman on the rebound wants back in ex's court

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: After a two-year relationship ended, I got pregnant on the rebound. I called my ex and told him I was having a baby with another man because I wanted to hurt him. Apparently it worked—at least that's what his best friend told me.

Now that a few months have passed, I ran into him and all those loving feelings I had for him came rushing back. Should I tell him? The father of this baby is a good-for-nothing deadbeat. He wants to be father-of-the-year without helping me financially.

What should I do about my feelings for my ex, and what should I do about the father of my baby?

CAN'T DECIDE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CAN'T DECIDE: It is time for you to grow up and accept responsibility for the situation you're in right now. Your behavior has been immature and irresponsible. The child you're carrying is going to need someone who can provide for him or her financially and emotionally.

Because you have feelings for your ex, contact him and let him know, but don't count on him wanting to reconcile. Then you should also contact a lawyer about ensuring that "Babydaddy" lives up to his financial responsibilities.

And in the future, when you decide to have sex with someone, recognize there could be consequences and use birth control. Every time!

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Recently my mother and I got into an argument on a four-hour road trip. She didn't like my opinions or my answers, so she kicked my 17-year-old daughter and me out of her vehicle and abandoned us in an unsafe neighborhood two hours from our home. She has done it twice before, and I have yet to hear an apology from her for dumping us on the curb.

Luckily, my son was able to come and retrieve us. Most people would have cut her off the first time she pulled this stunt, but I'm a "three-strikes-you're-out" kind of person. I have given my mother many opportunities to apologize for her behavior, but she refuses to acknowledge her own wrongdoing.

I have decided this is the last time this will happen to me. I no longer speak to her and won't allow my daughter to go anywhere with her for fear she will be dumped somewhere unsafe. My other kids—ages 21 and 22—say I should get over it. Was cutting her off a reasonable response?

THUMBIN' FOR A RIDE

DEAR THUMBIN': Your mother appears to have a short fuse and poor judgment. Is cutting her off a reasonable response? I think so. Dumping someone in an unsafe neighborhood could get the person killed, something we see all too often in the media. If you ever decide to relent, however, and go anywhere with her, make sure you are the one behind the wheel because it's clear Mama can't be trusted when she's in the driver's seat.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My family and I moved to Iowa when I was in high school to be closer to the other side of the family. Because we had lived in California, we didn't interact much with our Iowa family. So now, even though we have been back in Iowa for the last eight years, they still forget our birthdays and don't include us in family get-togethers. How should I deal with this situation?

EXCLUDED IN THE HAWKEYE STATE

DEAR EXCLUDED: It appears you're being punished for the "sins" of your parents. (Could there have been some friction with the Iowa relatives that caused the move to California?) All you can do is talk to them and see if you can improve the situation. Consider inviting them to YOUR family get-togethers and you may get a positive response.

However, if they are not receptive, then it will be up to you to create a "replacement" family out of the people you have become close to in your community since your return.

'Lego Movie' built to be a better toy film

NEW YORK (AP)—Toy movies occupy a spot on the respectability meter somewhere between talking dog films and "Showgirls."

Even in a business not always known for the most honorable of ambitions, films based on toy lines smack of a crass grab at cross-merchandizing.

Since the popularity of the "Transformers" franchise, Hollywood has increasingly turned to Hasbro toys like G.I. Joe and Battleship to capitalize on their familiar brands.

Chris Miller and Phil Lord, co-writers and co-directors of "The Lego Movie," were well aware of the dim reputation of toy movies. But in their short but rapidly ascending careers, the comic duo has turned weak premises like a "21 Jump Street" remake and an adaptation of "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" into surprisingly fresh, crowd-pleasing hits.

"One day we want to work on a movie that sounds like a good idea from the start," jokes Miller. "Our success has been based on low expectations."

"The Lego Movie," opening Friday, is far more inventive and satirical than you might expect. Made with a conscious resistance to the pitfall of toy-based movies, it's imbued with a childlike playfulness and a subversive mockery of corporate control.

"We actually really enjoy a challenge and get excited by solving a seemingly impossible



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows the character President Business, voiced by Will Ferrell, in a scene from "The Lego Movie."

puzzle," Miller says. "Each one of those movies—'Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs,' '21 Jump Street' and 'The Lego Movie'—we were like, 'That sounds terrible. It's probably going to be terrible, unless ... unless, there is one way you could do it.'"

"That's basically our entire career," says Lord.

The concept that Lord, 36, and Miller, 38, came up with was to capture the experience of playing in a deep box of the interlocking plastic bricks. In a world composed of Legos, following the rules, or the instructions, is a way of life. Workers happily sing the anthem "Everything Is Awesome," and are pacified by bland state-controlled entertainment, like the TV show "Where Are My Pants?"

A law-abiding construction worker named Emmet (voiced

by Chris Pratt) inadvertently stumbles across a rebellion against leader Lord Business (Will Ferrell), revealing a ragtag of mismatched characters, from Batman (Will Arnett) to Abraham Lincoln (Will Forte). A battle ensues between lock-step uniformity and creative chaos.

Saying just how much the movie mimics the experience of a child playing with Legos would spoil it. The Los Angeles Times called the film "the first-ever postmodern toy movie."

"It was as open and infinite as looking at a bucket of bricks itself," Miller said in a recent joint interview with Lord while the two stepped away from editing their upcoming sequel "22 Jump Street." "Our thinking was: What if this movie is told by an 8-year-old? We really wanted it to feel like it had the

whimsy and randomness of being from the mind of a child."

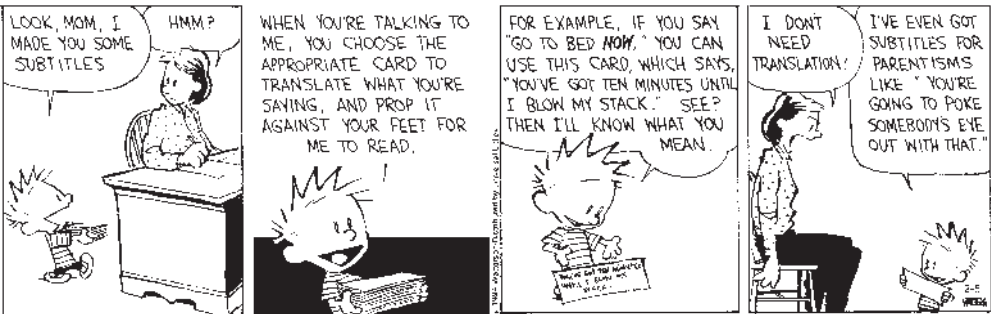
The Denmark-based Lego Group was approached by Warner Bros. producers in 2007 about making a movie, with an earlier story outline by Dan and Kevin Hageman. The company has in recent years expanded beyond toy sets to build numerous international theme parks, release several lines of video games with Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment and air the Cartoon Network TV series "Ninjago" (for which there are movie plans, too).

"The last thing that we wanted to do was be perceived as 'Oh, this is just Lego trying to make more money, just to sell more toys,'" says Matthew Ashton, vice president of creative design for Lego and a producer on the film.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



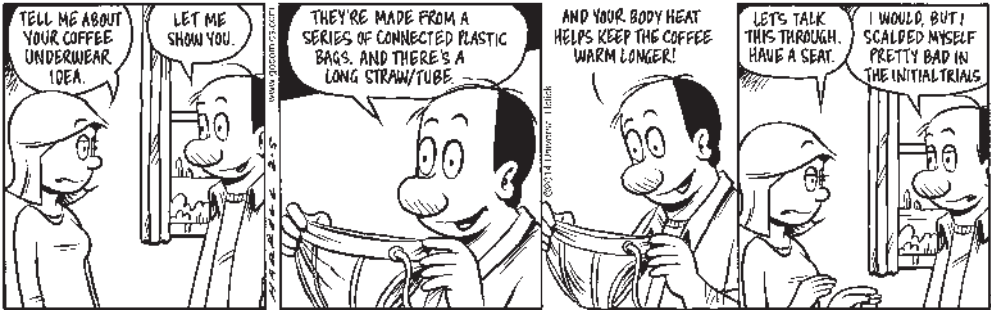
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



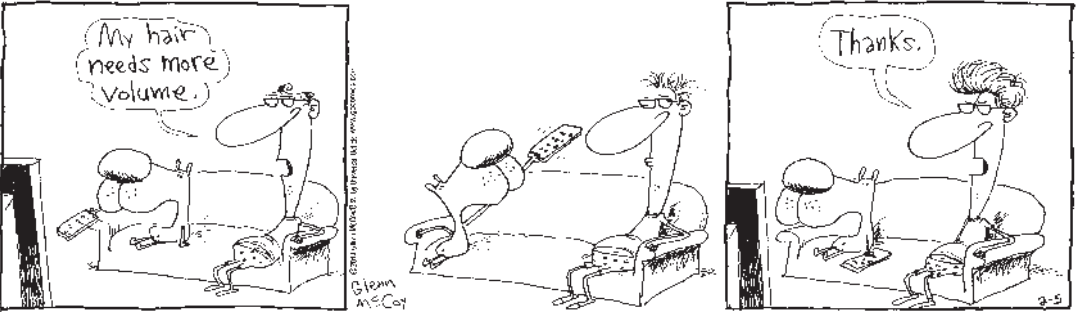
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

27 Spring mo.

28 Choral composition

30 Wit-ness

33 Ohio city

36 Inferior, as work-manship

37 Mini-skirt designer

38 Hard-ness symbol

39 Arm bone

40 Rowboat need

41 Wapiti

DOWN

1 Sacrifice site

2 Cheat at hide-and-seek

3 Cause distress

4 Recoiled

5 Tapestry for one

6 Bambi, for one

7 Rue the run

8 Long-snouted animal

9 Puts up

10 Viper

12 Pert

14 Drench

15 To the — degree

19 Once around

20 Type measures

21 Future juniors

22 Penta-teuch scrolls

23 Geneal-ogy chart

24 It's nothing new

25 Bombast

26 — alcohol

28 Whom Jason jilted

29 Se-quence

30 Hit a golf ball the wrong way

31 Sicilian spouter

32 Superla-tive suffix

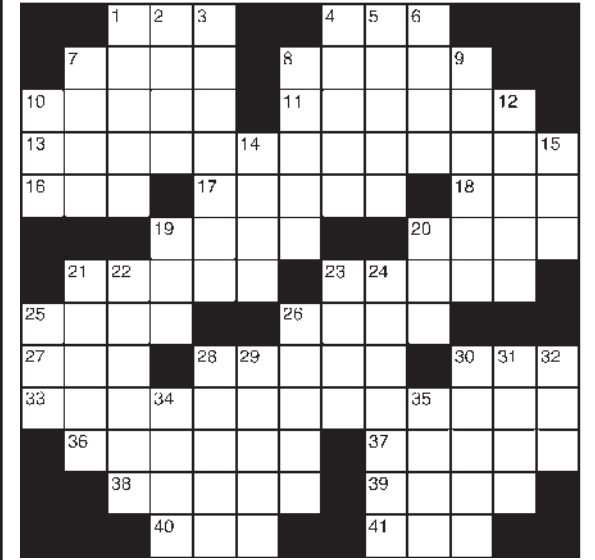
34 Japanese zither

35 Sea bird

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-5

JOGS ERA APRS
ALUM LEI SARA
MIRA BIRTHDAY
BOURBON HOSTS
MOW FOR
CALYX BLUEJAY
ORE YOU EYE
BETARAY PATES
RIM WIG
AGORN PAPOOSE
BROADWAY UNTO
LAZY INN TEEN
EWES TEE ISMS



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darren Criss, 27; Michael Sheen, 45; Jennifer Jason Leigh, 52; Barbara Hershey, 66.

Happy Birthday: Take time to plan your actions. Stepping into a situation that can spin your life out of control must be avoided. This is a year to be progressive but also organized and cautious. Keep your actions simple, affordable and within reason. Show respect for others and work in conjunction with people who can enhance your life and your success. Your numbers are 3, 10, 24, 27, 31, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Impulse will be your downfall. Fight against any desire to get involved in an argument or to do something totally out of character. Erratic behavior will leave you in a vulnerable position with few choices. Proceed in secrecy. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Communication and sharing plans with people who have common interests will result in an opportunity to travel, learn or discover new ways to enjoy and live your life. A chance to spend time with someone special will improve your relationship. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What you are told will be questionable. Stick to facts when discussing personal or professional matters. You can ask for favors, but first find out what's expected of you in return. Contact old colleagues if you feel uncertain about your current position. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Add flare to whatever you do or say. The way you express your likes and dislikes will make

a difference to the outcome. There are gains to be made if you connect with the right people. Share your concerns and your solutions. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you don't like something, change it. Taking action and being proactive will show how capable you are, but don't expect everyone to like what you do or say. Be prepared to deal with emotional issues that are brought to your attention. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your personal finances will suffer if you make emotional purchases. Don't overspend or feel you have to pay for others. Joint ventures will not turn out as planned. Focus on self-improvement, romance and family fun that you can afford. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't make personal or domestic changes. Moderation in all that you do will be necessary if you want to avoid loss. Invest in something that will bring you a safe and steady return. Accept a contract or settlement that is offered. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Getting together with people from different backgrounds will be enlightening. A change in attitude or to the way you live will enhance your life and bring you great joy. A change at home will inspire you to do something creative. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't exaggerate when discussing problems with friends or relatives. Gossip will lead to trouble that can affect your reputation. Stick close to home and catch up on odd jobs that have been left undone. Don't let someone from your past cause trouble. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't make unnecessary alterations to the way you do things. Keep relying on what's worked for you in the past. Keep life simple and you will not have any need to worry about what's going to happen next. Consistency equals stability. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Initiate change and follow through with your plans. Don't allow an emotional meddler to come between you and your accomplishments. Actions will speak louder than words and bring you the results you are looking for. Stick to the rules and you'll avoid interference. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone from your past will play an intricate role in your life now. Do your best to reconnect and explore new possibilities based on past interests. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make the right choice or move. ****

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, innovative and intuitive. You are adaptable, flippant and fun.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	4	2	3	7	9	8	5
7	3	5	8	9	6	4	1	2
9	2	8	5	4	1	6	7	3
3	1	9	4	7	5	2	6	8
5	8	2	6	1	3	7	9	4
4	7	6	9	2	8	3	5	1
8	5	7	3	6	2	1	4	9
2	4	1	7	5	9	8	3	6
6	9	3	1	8	4	5	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/05

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

I LOVE MY PET Solution: 6 letters

SKCIRTNUHCTAWFC
SPANOITCEFFAOAO
FNETSILAYOLRRMM
NSUA@G@TLKGEGIP
IEQTRILSLIGLRLA
ALITEROPVIEUAYN
TFNAUWEIVLNFTEY
RLUCDCNIDAUYERH
EEEHIGNDTNIAFUE
TSSAGSCEPTONLUSL
NSLPSGCOPEIEPLAP
EBREDEDEVOTIONE
ESUMACOGNOLEBLU
PSALCLTHTMRAWPL
RELAXNDCHERFUL

© 2014 Universal Jclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 2/5

Accept, Adopt, Affection, Amuse, Attach, Belong, Breed, Caregiving, Cheerful, Clasp, Company, Cuddle, Devotion, Digs, Emotional, Entertain, Family, Follow, Forgiving, Genuine, Grateful, Helpful, Hunt, Listen, Love, Loyal, Naps, Playful, Pleasure, Relax, Respect, Security, Selfless, Special, Tags, Tricks, Unique, Walks, Warmth, Watch

Yesterday's Answer: Watches

Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Caregiver - Salary \$5.55p/h. 2 yrs. exp. required. Flexible work hours. Call Patricia Worley at 433-0234.

1-Accountant Bookkeeper/Computer Operator - \$5.55 w/ 6 yrs exp & knowledge in Acctng & Taxes. Japanese Foods import/export docs related. Mail resume to SPE Saipan Box 502696 Saipan MP 96950.

Wanted: Foreign Workers or Locals. Engineering firm seeks entry level Autocad Technicians and Engineers. Employer willing to train. Please email resume to akennedy@zoneengineering.com.

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Electrician -Atleast 5 yrs. experience as Electrician. Proficient on layout & installation of electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC. Tel.# 235-1680

Hong Ye Trading Company LTD.

P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

(7) Construction Workers

More than 2yrs experience. High School graduate. Salary \$5.55/hr.

If interested, call 235-8748.

Vacancy Announcement

(1) **Accounting Clerk** – Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.

(2) **Maintenance** – Atleast high school graduate. A valid driver's license. Ability to use efficiently various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form.

(1) **Auto Mechanic** – Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/ repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

(1) **Trash Collector** – Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI

Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft

\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #4 - Size: 9,000sq/ft

Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft

\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL

235-6527/28 or 285-1317

WANTED

■ **Cement Laborer** - \$5.55 per hour. Cement handling equipment experience preferred.

■ **Cement Supervisor** - \$7.00 per hour. Must have cement handling equipment experience.

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement

Computer Repair

Only **\$10** Restore OS

Student Laptop Call for more info.


233-5641

Open: Monday-Saturday

9:00am - 7:00pm

www.calvatron.net

APARTMENTS FOR RENT



Fina Sisu Terraces

Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **\$250/month.**

2-BR, 1-BTH. **\$350-\$550/month.** Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces

(Navy Hill)

Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$600/month**

Sunset View Terraces

(Navy Hill)

Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view. **\$550/month**

FEATURES:

■ Fully Furnished

■ Back-up Generator

■ Air-conditioning in all rooms

■ FREE WIFI

■ Laundry Area

■ Nighttime Security

■ Ample Parking

■ 24hr water

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com

Call for an appointment

235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: A drop of the hard stuff

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PARTS SALES PERSON (1)

• Minimum of 5 years experience

• Expertise in commercial vehicle and heavy equipment parts

APPLY IN PERSON & BRING RESUME

No phone call please.

MARIANAS EXCHANGE, INC.

Saipan Plaza Building

Middle Road, Gualo Rai

GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY is looking for

Teacher – Middle School – Science/Math

■ Must be a BA degree holder

■ At least 2 years teaching experience preferably in a Christian school;

■ Must be flexible and willing to handle other grade levels when needed;

■ Must adhere to all school policies and procedures;

■ Must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school;

Download and complete application form at www.gca-nmi.com. and mail to Grace Christian Academy, P.O. Box 500643, Saipan, MP 96950.

KINGFISHER GOLF LINKS

is looking for

ONE (1) MANAGER

Japanese language skills to prepare various reports is required.

Applicants should contact

322-1100 or send e-mail to kingfisher@saipan.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Sales Representative

Required Qualifications:

■ U.S. accredited Bachelor's Degree in: Medical Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry or related science or medical field.

■ Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of Sales of pharmaceuticals, dialysis supplies and equipment, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment.

■ Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a good command of the English language. Non-native speakers may be requested to present satisfactory TOEFL or IELTS scores.

■ Experienced in maintaining and monitoring inventories for medical supplies and equipment, dialysis supplies and equipment, and pharmaceuticals.

■ Experienced in dealing with medical equipment and supplies, dialysis equipment and supplies, laboratory reagents and equipment.

■ Capable of preparing and presenting sales reports, monthly inventory reports, and market analysis reports using Quickbooks or other similar accounting software.

■ Must be available to work during nights, weekends, and holidays.

■ Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license

Compensation: \$8.00/hr

Interested applicants may email a copy of their resume and police clearance to medpharm@medpharmusa.net or call 288-8880.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Marketing Representative / Delivery Man (1 position) \$5.55/hour

Qualification Requirements:

*SOC ONet 41-4011.00 *Must have a 2 college degree with at least 2 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a high school diploma with possessing minimum 5 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Holding a valid CNMI driver's license *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Marketing Assistant Manager (1 position) \$6.50/hour

Qualification Requirements:

*SOC ONet 11-2021.00 *Must have a 4-college degree with at least 4 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a 2-year college degree with at least 8 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Holding a valid CNMI driver's license *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Office Adm/Operations Manager (1 position) \$7.00/hour

Qualification Requirements:

*SOC synthesized ONet 11-1021.00 & 11-3011.00*Must have a 4-college degree with at least 4 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a high-school diploma with possessing minimum 10 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Holding a valid CNMI driver's license *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Purchasing Administrative Assistant (1 position) \$6.50/hour

Qualification Requirements:

*SOC ONet 11-3061.00 *Must have a 4-college degree with at least 2 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry or a 2-year college degree with at least 6 year fulltime relevant work experience in a non-alcohol beverage wholesale industry *Well knowledge in Chinese merchandise and export government regulations and processing *Fluent in Chinese speaking, listening, reading and writing *Able to work under pressure with flexible work hours *Willing to travel frequently *Good in basic business math with honest personal characters

Interested applicants please submit a resume with supporting documents to APEX Corporation, Contact Person: Michael Zhang or Peter Xu, Fax number: (670) 288-3389 before 5:00 P.M., February 6, 2014. Thank you.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

CALL 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GR NITE A

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

WHATZIT? © 2014 www.whatzit.com
Designed by Unimex - Ullrich

Find today's solution in classified section

James leads Heat past Pistons, 102-96



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James came within two rebounds of his first triple-double this season, and the Miami Heat won for the fifth time in six games Monday by beating the Detroit Pistons 102-96.

James had 24 points and 11 assists, Dwyane Wade scored 30 points and Chris Bosh added 17.

Wade had one of his best performances in an injury-hampered season, shooting 13 for 19 and adding 10 rebounds and five assists in 37 minutes. His point total was his highest since Dec. 18.

James was blanked in the rebound department down the stretch. When Wade snatched a rebound away from him with 4 minutes left, a grinning James chided him as they ran up-court. Wade waved his arms in sheepish apology.

Teammate Ray Allen out-fought James for a rebound a minute later, which left James muttering to the Heat bench.

James also tweaked his left shoulder and right hand, and was called for committing a foul with his face when he became entangled with Greg Monroe.

Allen's buzzer-beating 3-pointer put the Heat up 84-80 after three periods, and they pulled away from there. Wade's 3-pointer put them ahead by 13 points for the first time, 98-85.

Brandon Jennings had 26 points and seven assists for the Pistons, who trailed almost the entire game and took it badly. They were called for four technical fouls.

Monroe had 17 points and 11 rebounds. Detroit lost despite forcing 20 turnovers and holding an edge of 51-44 in rebounds.

The Heat, who began the week three games behind Eastern Conference leader Indiana, started strong and scored 13 points before they missed a shot.

From 41-all, James and Wade teamed up for back-to-back fast-break baskets. The second came when Wade fed Mario Chalmers, whose alley-oop over the hoop perfectly led an airborne James for a one-handed throw-down dunk.

Will Bynum's four-point play put the Pistons up 48-47, but that was their last lead. Miami went on a 14-2 run near the end of the half and led 63-57 at halftime.

Thunder 86, Grizzlies 77

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 31 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, Serge Ibaka had 21 points and 12 rebounds and the Oklahoma City Thunder continued their home dominance, beating the Memphis Grizzlies.

Oklahoma City (39-11) had a 10-game winning streak snapped Saturday at Washington, but the

Thunder moved to 21-3 at home while winning their seventh straight game at Chesapeake Energy Arena.

Zach Randolph had 13 points and 13 rebounds and Marc Gasol added 13 points for Memphis (26-21), which lost for the second time in 13 games. The Grizzlies had won six straight games, the NBA's longest winning streak entering Monday.

Coming off a remarkable January during which he averaged 35.9 points per game on 54.9-percent shooting, Durant finished 11 of 21 from the field.

Wizards 100, Trail Blazers 90

In Washington, Washington moved above .500 for the first time in more than four years, accomplishing the feat on its eighth try this season by pulling away in the second half to beat Portland.

John Wall scored 22 points, and Trevor Ariza added 20 for the Wizards, who hadn't had a winning record since beating the New Jersey Nets to improve to 2-1 on Halloween in 2009. Washington committed six turnovers while forcing 16 from Portland, and Wall and Co. didn't look back after Kevin Seraphin led a 12-0 run that put the Wizards up by 17 early in the fourth quarter.

Damian Lillard scored 25 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 20 to lead the Trail Blazers, who have lost four straight road games.

Pacers 98, Magic 79

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 16 points, Paul George and Lance Stephenson each added 15, and Indiana beat Orlando.

Indiana (37-10) won for the second time in three days and maintained its grip on the NBA's best record.

The reeling Magic were led by Arron Afflalo with 20 points and Nikola Vucevic with 16. Orlando (13-37) lost for the fourth time in five games and is a league-worst 3-23 on the road.

It wasn't nearly as easy as it seemed.

Orlando cut a 16-point second-quarter deficit to nine at the half, to 60-58 in the third quarter and even had two chances to tie the score.

But the Pacers answered with six straight points and put away the Magic with an 18-1 run that started late in the third quarter and ended with the Pacers up 86-64 with 7:45 left in the game.

Nuggets 116, Clippers 115

In Denver, Randy Foye hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key at the buzzer, and Denver overcame a 36-point performance by Blake Griffin.

Kenneth Faried had a career-high 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets, who denied the Clippers their sixth



Detroit Pistons' Josh Smith (6) tries to block Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) during the first half of a NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014.

win in seven games.

Ty Lawson, who missed the last four games with a shoulder injury, added 27 points and J.J. Hickson had 17 points and 12 rebounds.

DeAndre Jordan had 19 points and 12 rebounds. It was his team record 28th consecutive game with at least 10 rebounds. Jamal Crawford added 19 points for the Clippers, who fell to 0-11 on the road when trailing after the third quarter.

Nets 108, 76ers 102

In New York, Paul Pierce scored 25 points, Deron Williams added 21 and Brooklyn stopped a three-game losing streak.

The Nets had lost to division leaders Toronto, Oklahoma City and Indiana after starting 2014 by winning 10 of their first 11 games, but got back on track against a Philadelphia team that has lost 13 of its last 16 games.

Brooklyn had a 19-point lead with 4:21 left in the third quarter cut to 104-102 after James An-

derson hit a 3-pointer with 22 seconds left. Pierce then made two free throws before Shaun Livingston intercepted Michael Carter-Williams' pass and converted a pair of free throws to put it away.

Carter-Williams led Philadelphia with 21 points and Tony Wroten had 18 off the bench.

Spurs 102, Pelicans 95

In New Orleans, Tony Parker scored 21 of his 32 points in the second half and also doled out nine assists, and San Antonio overcame a 14-point deficit.

Tim Duncan scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half, and Marco Belinelli added 13 against his former club.

Anthony Davis had 17 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks, Anthony Morrow added 20 points and Eric Gordon scored 19 points for the Pelicans, who appeared in line for their fifth win in six games when they led by 14 near the end of the third quarter.

The Spurs, however, had other plans. Parker strung together an array of dazzling driving layups through crowds of defenders, and San Antonio outscored New Orleans 38-19 in the final period.

Bucks 101, Knicks 98

In Milwaukee, Brandon Knight made a 3-pointer with 1.4 seconds left and finished with 25 points, and Milwaukee snapped a six-game losing streak.

Knight took a couple dribbles, then quickly fired his 3 from the wing with Raymond Felton leaping into the air. Felton turned in disbelief as Knight rushed down the other end to celebrate.

The Knicks had one last chance, though Carmelo Anthony misfired on a deep 3. He finished with 36 points.

New York rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter, but ended up falling to the worst team in the NBA.

Khris Middleton added 19

points and a season-high five 3s for Milwaukee, which also snapped a seven-game skid to New York.

Mavericks 124, Cavaliers 107

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points, Devin Harris had a season-high 16 and Dallas handed Cleveland its fifth straight loss.

Nowitzki was on the bench for most of a key third-quarter stretch as the Mavericks restored a double-digit lead behind by Harris, Brandan Wright and Jose Calderon.

Harris had seven points on a 9-2 run that gave the Mavericks their first 15-point lead, and Wright scored nine of his 14 points in the third. Jose Calderon had four of his game-high 10 assists in the quarter and hit a pair of 3-pointers.

Kyrie Irving had 27 to lead the Cavaliers, who have dropped seven of their last eight.

Raptors 94, Jazz 79

In Salt Lake City, DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 18 to help Toronto win its fourth in five games.

DeRozan looked to get his teammates involved in the first half but once Kyle Lowry left with a knee injury, the new All-Star took matters into his own hands with nine points in the fourth quarter to quell a Jazz comeback. The Raptors scored 13 of the game's final 16 points.

Valanciunas and Amir Johnson, who had 11 points and 11 rebounds, exposed the Jazz interior defense without Derrick Favors (hip).

Marvin Williams scored 23 points and Alec Burks had 20 off the bench but it wasn't enough to keep the Jazz from their third straight loss, their worst span since a four-game skid from Dec. 4-9.

Kings 99, Bulls 70

In Sacramento, Calif., DeMarcus Cousins had 25 points and 16 rebounds to help Sacramento snap a seven-game losing streak by defeating Chicago.

Cousins, the Kings' leading scorer and rebounder, missed the previous six games with a sprained ankle. Cousins came out aggressive, getting 11 points and seven rebounds in the first quarter when the Kings led 24-12 and never trailed the remainder of the game.

Jimmy Butler had 17 points for the frustrated Bulls, who have lost two straight and three of four. Tony Snell and Taj Gibson each had 11 points. Chicago was outscored 28-13 in the fourth quarter.

Chicago All-Star center Joakim Noah had four points and four rebounds before being ejected in the third quarter when he picked up two technical fouls.

Mistakes, miscalculations doom Denver's chances

NEW YORK (AP)—The seeds of Denver's stunning Super Bowl self-destruction were planted during Wednesday's practice when coach John Fox decided to turn down the speakers that simulate crowd noise because "it's not an away game."

A silent snap count would have been so much better because Seattle's famed 12th Man showed up on Denver's first play from scrimmage and helped ruin whatever great game plan offensive coordinator Adam Gase and Peyton Manning had come up with.

Instead of thwarting the Seahawks' stingy secondary and stout front seven, the Broncos fell apart.

MetLife Stadium might not have been as loud as CenturyLink Field, but it was plenty spirited as the start of all Super Bowls are and when Manning lined up in the shotgun and called for the ball from his 14-yard line, his center couldn't hear the cadence.

Manny Ramirez crouched still and just as Manning stepped up to reset the play, Ramirez's snap sailed into the north end zone, where running back Knowshon Moreno smothered it for a safety.

"None of us heard the snap count," Ramirez said. "I thought I did and when I snapped it, I guess Peyton was actually trying to walk up to me at the time. I'm not 100 percent sure. It's unfortunate things didn't go as planned."

"Nobody's fault," Manning said. "It was just a noise issue."

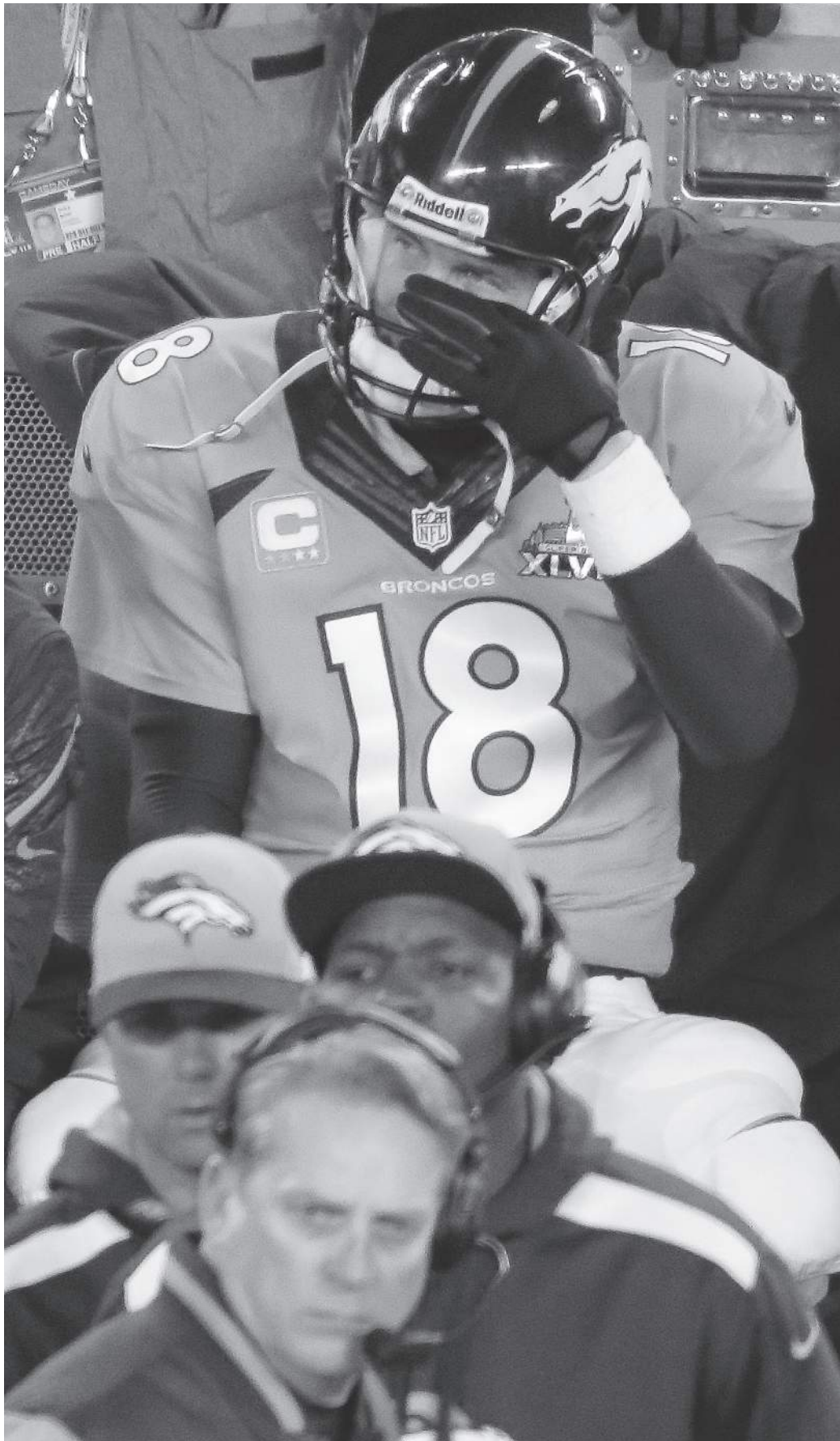
Twelve seconds in, the Broncos trailed and never recovered on their way to a humbling 43-8 blowout by the swarming Seahawks, a remarkable rout of the highest-scoring team in NFL history.

"That's the way the start of any Super Bowl, it's going to be loud," said Wes Welker, now 0-3 in Super Bowls. "The fans are going to be yelling. They don't really know why they're yelling. It's just the start of the Super Bowl. We didn't prepare very well for that and it showed."

Of all the mistakes and miscalculations that led to Denver's dud of a Super Bowl, this one especially hurts because this team takes such pride in preparing for every little possibility.

At the Jets' practice facility Wednesday, Fox had his team run several live drills with eight speakers on one side of the field blaring crowd noise to help with concentration, but he didn't turn them on full blast.

"Normally, it's about five times louder than that," explained Fox, who had coached in the Super Bowl as the Giants' defensive coordinator and the head coach of the Carolina Panthers. "It's not an away game. The ones I've been to haven't been too loud. So we just kind



Denver Broncos' Peyton Manning watches play against the Seattle Seahawks during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl XLVIII football game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014, in East Rutherford, N.J.

of practice with what we think we're going to get."

The Broncos' self-inflicted mistakes were only just beginning.

Pressured relentlessly, Manning would lose a fumble and throw two interceptions, including one that game MVP Malcolm Smith returned for a 69-yard touchdown that made it 22-0 at halftime.

"This was our worst execution all year," said tight end Julius Thomas, one of a record five Broncos who had scored double-digit touchdowns during a record-shattering 606-point season.

"We just never found a rhythm offensively," added wide receiver Eric Decker. "We got behind and we had to cut

down on what our game plan was and couldn't do certain things."

While Bruno Mars was crooning at halftime, the Broncos still believed they could make President Barack Obama look good when he predicted a close game in a pre-Super Bowl interview with Bill O'Reilly.

The Seahawks needed all of 12 seconds to score after the break, too.

Matt Prater, who led the league by a wide margin with 81 touchbacks on kickoffs, pooched the kickoff in an apparent attempt to keep it out of Percy Harvin's hands.

Harvin, however, gathered it at the 13 and raced 87 yards for the score that made it 29-0.

The Broncos were effectively finished, although Manning would go on to complete a Super Bowl record 34 passes and Demaryius Thomas would catch a Super Bowl record 13 of them for 118 yards and a touchdown—Manning's 100th in two years for Denver.

Manning's other losses with the Broncos were by six, six, 10, three, six, three and seven points—41 altogether—almost as much as in the Super Bowl.

"We worked hard to get to this point and overcame a lot of obstacles to get here, putting in a lot of hard work," Manning said. "It is a really good thing just to have this opportunity, but certainly to finish this way is very disappointing."

"It is not an easy pill to swallow, but eventually you have to."

Seattle's Malcolm Smith, Super Bowl MVP? 'No way'

NEW YORK (AP)—Three words raced through Seattle Seahawks linebacker Malcolm Smith's mind as he streaked toward the end zone in the Super Bowl, returning his interception of a pass by Peyton Manning: "Don't get caught."

That, Smith explained Monday at a news conference, would be the "typical thoughts a defensive player (would have) with the ball." And he heeded his own advice, going 69 yards for a touchdown on that play. He added a fumble recovery later and earned MVP honors as Seattle beat Manning's Denver Broncos 43-8 for the Seahawks' first NFL championship.

At no moment during Sunday's action did Smith think he would take home the award.

His teammates did.

"Even during the game," Smith recalled, "guys were like, 'You might be MVP.' And I was like, 'No way. No way. Not me.' But to be here, it's just pretty cool."

Smith is not one of those players who long ago seemed destined to wind up getting the keys to a new vehicle the day after the Super Bowl, a sponsor's prize for the big game's best player.

Coming out of college at Southern California—where he was coached by the Seahawks' current boss, Pete Carroll—Smith wasn't invited to the NFL combine, where top prospects are measured and evaluated. Then, when the 2011 draft rolled around, he wasn't taken until the seventh round, the 242nd player chosen.

Seems to fit right in with the Seahawks, more than a third of whom weren't even drafted at all.

"He didn't like it, but he had to go in the seventh round. He's proven otherwise, just like a lot of other guys in

our program," Carroll said.

"I think it was extraordinary last night to see Jermaine Kearse score a touchdown, and Doug Baldwin score a touchdown, and Malcolm gets in the end zone and scoops up another fumble," he continued. "Guys that are not the heralded guys coming in competed in our program and found a way to contribute in enormous ways."

By way of explaining in a euphoric locker room Sunday night why he was an appropriate choice for an MVP from these Seahawks, Smith said: "I'm just fortunate to be a part of it, fortunate to get opportunities. I'm happy to be amongst a bunch of guys that play with attitudes and chips on their shoulders. I'm happy to represent that."

He went on: "You might have been overlooked. You might feel like you can make plays and never got the opportunity."

Truth is, the Seahawks were the lucky ones.

Because even though Smith was not supposed to be a starter this season, a player with zero interceptions in his first two years in the league, he always was ready when called upon.

Pegged mainly as a special teams guy, Smith earned notice with his speed and ability to handle both outside linebacker slots.

When Bruce Irvin was suspended for four games in May for violating the league's policy on performance-enhancing substances, it was Smith who filled in as a starter.

When Bobby Wagner was sidelined, and K.J. Wright slid over to middle linebacker, Smith got another opportunity to start. And when Wright broke his right foot late in the season, guess who Seattle called upon: Yep, Smith, of course.



Seattle Seahawks linebacker and Super Bowl XLVIII MVP Malcolm Smith answers questions from the media during a news conference at the Super Bowl Media Center at the Sheraton hotel, Monday, Feb. 3, 2014, in New York.

6-time All-Star Berkman retiring from baseball

HOUSTON (AP)—Six-time All-Star Lance Berkman is retiring after 15 seasons in the major leagues.

Berkman almost left the game last offseason before signing with the Texas Rangers. He then had another injury-plagued season and was limited to 73 games.

The 37-year-old Berkman was Houston's first-round draft pick in 1997 out of Rice, and played 12 seasons for the Astros. He played 1,879 career games, all but 287 for Houston,

finishing a .293 career hitter with 366 home runs and 1,234 RBIs.

"Lance was one of the greatest players in Astros history," his original team said in a release Wednesday night.

The Astros said they hope to honor Berkman during the upcoming season and "give the fans the chance to recognize his outstanding career."

He finished the 2010 season with the New York Yankees before two years in St. Louis, where he was part of the 2011 World Series champions.

"Just physically I've gotten

to the point where I don't feel like I can compete at a level that I'm used to competing at," Berkman told KRIV-TV of Houston. "I could probably still drag my carcass out there, but I'm not interested in doing that. ... I don't want to hang on just to hang on."

Berkman said he was excited about retiring.

The Rangers declined their \$12 million contract option for 2014 last October, which got Berkman a \$1 million buyout. He hit .242 with six homers and 34 RBIs for the Rangers.

He went on the disabled list



AP
In this April 24, 2013, file photo, Texas Rangers' Lance Berkman hits a two-RBI single in a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif.

July 7 with a left inflammation and a sore right knee, and played only five games after coming back the final month of the season.

The six-time All-Star played only 32 games for St. Louis in 2012, when he dealt with a strained left calf and had two operations on his right knee. He hit .301 in 2011 for the Cardinals, who won the World Series that season over Texas.

Berkman had said last winter that he had gone into that offseason feeling like he was going to retire then. But he responded to the Rangers, and made \$10 million last season.

9 teams sign up for B Division of MDX caging

Nine teams have signed up for the B division of the MDX Amateur Radio Club's 2014 Inter-Color Basketball League.

MDX president Pete Reyes said the nine teams that have made their intentions of joining the competition are Docomo Pacific, Adobo, Saipan Ice, I Love Saipan, China Town, Armatech, San Antonio, Pacman, and IT&E.

The start of the 40-and-over division, meanwhile, has been put off until the end of February or early March to give

teams more time to solicit sponsorships.

Under the original plan, the B division of the MDX caging will be played at the outdoor Gualo Rai Basketball Court, while the masters caging will utilize the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In related news, Reyes is calling on representatives of the nine teams in the B division to attend a meeting set for Thursday, Feb. 6, 7pm at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The organizing committee members of the MDX 2014 Inter-Color Basketball League, with their contact numbers in parenthesis, are Jojo Garon, (483-2939); Sonny Ebuena (785-7023); Abner Venus (8880-3215); and Peter Crisostomo (483-2356)

For more information on the 2014 Inter-Color Basketball League, contact Reyes at 989-7317 or email at reyes.pete@gmail.com or Bong Malasarte at 287- 5525 or email him at bong@malasarte.com. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Rocball league completes semis cast

The 29th season of the Saipan Rocball League is down to four teams after completion of the 45 regular season games last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Left to battle in the semifinal round are Out-of-Shape, Rollerz, Teachers, and A-Team. Out-of-Shape and Rollerz are paired in the first semis duel, while the Teachers collide against A-Team in another best-of-three series with the winners of the Final Four

matches advancing to the best-of-five title showdown.

Coming into today's semifinal matches, Out-of-Shape is slightly favored against the Rollerz after topping the scoring in the regular season and finishing the eliminations with an unbeaten 8-0 record. The top finisher gained 217 points from aces, xunks, kees, and goals against the 170 of Rollerz, which made it to the semifinals last with an even 4-4 card, losing the tiebreak for third with

A-Team.

A-Team earned 203 points in the regular season, just two more than Teachers, which got a 7-1 record in the elimination to gain the second seeding.

Meanwhile, Out-of-Shape was named the heavy-hitter team (for scoring the most points) in the regular season. It notched 67 points off aces and xunk serves, 62 off backcourt plays, and 21 off 3-point goals. *(Saipan Tribune)*

JETS

From Page 28

batter Ryan Aguon was beaten to first, third batter Devin Resaura flied out at centerfield, and fourth batter Reyes was struck out by Jets closer Brandon Pua.

The Jets and Red Sox engaged in the high-scoring game after hitting their targets early. The Jets got two earned runs and four more off the Red Sox's miscues in the first inning, while the latter bagged four. The Jets gained two more in the second

inning and after a scoreless third notched three apiece in the next two innings to remain on top, but the Red Sox stayed afloat as they collected three runs in the third and four in the fifth.

Comets 11, Fielders 8

In the first Junior League game last Sunday, the Comets thwarted the Fielders.

The Comets limited the Fielders to one run in the first four innings to build an early lead and hung tough against the latter's late rally to preserve the victory,

their second in three games.

The Fielders, who dropped to a 1-2 slate, made it to the board early with Austin Ada reaching home off a Comets error at third base, but was scoreless in the next three innings, as they struggled against starting pitcher Austin Hocog.

In five innings, Hocog struck out six, allowed only three hits, and gave up no earned run, helping the Comets keep the lead, 9-2, before being relieved by Lorenzo Sebaklim. The Fielders' second run was

courtesy off another Comets defensive lapse.

On the offensive end, the Comets had a five-run top of the second, nailing two runs off passed balls, two from the Fielders' error, and one from a Kobe Santos single. Santos also had an RBI single in the third inning, while the three other runs came off Aurel Mendiola's two-run single and a fielder's choice.

The Comets added two more runs in the sixth inning off a wild pitch and passed ball, but the Fielders countered with four

runs (three earned) at the bottom to stay in the match and boosted their chances for a comeback win after shutting out their foes at the top of the last inning. The Fielders went on to move closer with their first two batters scoring off the Comets' booboos, but the next three were booted out with the eventual winners securing the victory after tagging out fourth batter Greg Sablan at third base. The Comets got the two other outs off a fly ball and strikeout.

MHS

From Page 28

as the Dolphins' much deeper bench clearly dominated Eucon's. The Blazers had only five players making it to the scoreboard, while 10 players chipped in for MHS' lopsided win.

With the Dolphins ahead by 16, with only one quarter to go, there was no way Eucon could overhaul the lead with only two players consistently hitting their shots for the Blazers, while their foes continued

to spread the wealth.

Yap led two other MHS players in double figures with his 15 points, as he drilled two more treys in the fourth canto. Prince Factor and Kobe Mendoza added 14 and 12, respectively, and they combined for 12 of the Dolphins' first 13 points to put the team on top after the opening canto, 17-15.

Eucon kept MHS within striking distance behind the 11 first-quarter points of Allen Yu and Amos Ren. The Blazers then even managed to grab the driver's

seat at the break with Yu, scoring 7 of the team's last 9 points in the second canto. However, the Dolphins got back into business in the third to retain their perfect record.

In the junior varsity division, MHS is also unscathed, following its 45-35 win over Eucon.

The Dolphins hold a 4-0 record, while Eucon has a 2-1 card.

The division leader held Eucon to single digits in scoring in three quarters en route to the 10-point win. The Dolphins limited the Blazers to one field goal

in the first period for an 11-3 lead and although Eucon bounced back in the second, making 14 points, the latter logged only 9 markers each in the last two periods to absorb its first loss in the division.

Ignacio Borja led the Dolphins' win, recording 17 points, while Jack Wang had 14 on the losing end for the Blazers.

Junior Varsity

MHS 45 – Borja 17, Pamintuan 8, Manalili 7 Vivero 4, Benavente 4, Santos 2.

Eucon 35 – Ja. Wang 14, Pecson 4, Li 4, J. Wang 4, Ji 4, Zheng 3, Je. Wang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-3, 21-17, 30-26, 45-35.

Varsity

MHS 77 – Yap 15, Factor 14, Mendoza 12, Espinosa 8, Arciaga 6, Malonzo 6, Cayading 4, Gabaldon 4, Kwon 3, Caouyon 3.

Eucon 57 – Yu 23, Li 11, Ren 9, Zhang 6, R. Wang 6.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 29-30, 57-41, 77-57.

YANKEES

From Page 28

out after picking up a grounder from leadoff batter William Babauta. Cruz earned the second out when he received a throw from third baseman Jerome Delos Santos and beat Jeremy Atalig. The third and final out was courtesy of Joab, who redeemed himself from the earlier wild pitch by striking out Juan Iguel.

While it took the North Stars nine innings before scoring, the Yankees made it to the board early, drilling two runs at the top of the first inning. Leadoff batter Ben Jones registered the first run in the game, as he walked, stole second, and made it all the way home off wild pitches from Dave Jones. Delos Santos scored the second run for the Yankees, as he walked, advanced to second off a passed ball, stole third, and reached off

a fielder's choice.

The Yankees had three more chances to gain additional runs, but could not complete the plays, as the North Stars' defense also held strong. Pat Alepuyo reached third base in the second inning, but was stranded along with two other runners, as the North Stars caught two straight fly balls. Then in the sixth inning, it was Cruz's turn to be in a scoring position, but was denied when Dave Jones struck

out Alepuyo. David Camacho also moved to as far as third base in the seventh inning, but the leadoff batter was stuck there, as the Yankees' next three batters were booted out.

The North Stars were in scoring positions on three occasions in the first eight innings, but also faltered before breaking the spell in the ninth. Jesus Iguel led off for the North Stars, but was left stranded at third, while second batter Lamarc Iguel re-

mained at second, as the third batter was tagged out at second, the fourth was struck out, and the fifth was beaten to first.

In the second inning, the North Stars also moved one step away from scoring, but Cabrera got back-to-back strikeouts, while Juan Iguel was beaten to second base. Juan Iguel's woes continued in the seventh when he was stuck at third after Kapileo got another strikeout for the third out.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	26	22	.542	—
Brooklyn	21	25	.457	4
New York	19	29	.396	7
Boston	16	33	.327	10½
Philadelphia	15	34	.306	11½

Southeast Division

Miami	34	13	.723	—
Atlanta	25	21	.543	8½
Washington	24	23	.511	10
Charlotte	21	28	.429	14
Orlando	13	37	.260	22½

Central Division

Indiana	37	10	.787	—
Chicago	23	24	.489	14
Detroit	19	28	.404	18
Cleveland	16	32	.333	21½
Milwaukee	9	39	.188	28½

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	13	.729	—
Houston	32	17	.653	3½
Dallas	28	21	.571	7½
Memphis	26	21	.553	8½
New Orleans	20	27	.426	14½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	39	11	.780	—
Portland	34	14	.708	4
Denver	23	23	.500	14
Minnesota	23	24	.489	14½
Utah	16	32	.333	22

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	34	17	.667	—
Phoenix	29	18	.617	3
Golden State	29	19	.604	3½
L.A. Lakers	16	31	.340	16
Sacramento	16	32	.333	16½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 Sun Palace Basketball Tournament Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Players of Rollers 2 pose with organizers during the awards ceremony for the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Rollers 2 beat Rollers 1 in the finals, 60-53.



Rollers 2's Sam Darag tries to dribble past Rollers 1's Irvin Malonzo.



Rollers 2's Mike Espinosa pulls up for a dagger from beyond the arc in the closing seconds of the title match.



Rollers 2's John Capuyon attempts a triple.



Rollers 1' William Camacho is hacked by Rollers 2's Jun Fidelino.



Rollers 1's J.P. Iglecias challenges the defense of Rollers 2's Jun Fidelino, left, and Mike Espinosa.



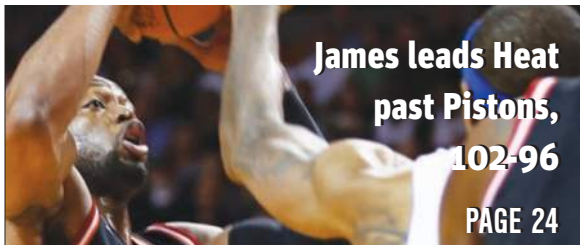
Rollers 1's Mike Arciaga goes up for a point-blank shot against two Rollers 2 defenders.



Rollers 1's Prince Factor uses his body to protect the ball while pulling up for a shot against Rollers 2's Mike Espinosa.



Kobe Mendoza directs the play for Rollers 2.



James leads Heat
past Pistons,
102-96
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



Mistakes,
miscalculations
doom Denver's
PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jets zoom past Red Sox for second win



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Jets pitcher throws to a Red Sox batter during their Junior League game last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Jets went into full speed in the sixth inning to stun the defending champions Red Sox, 25-12, in the Junior League game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Jets scored 11 runs at the top of the sixth inning to wrap up the second game last weekend one inning early and improve their record to 2-1, while handing the Red Sox their third loss in as many games.

Before going for the jugular, the Jets were only ahead by three after five

complete innings, 14-11. Then at the top of the sixth, Brandon Pua led off for the Jets and walked. The next two batters also made it to first off another walk and a single and later reached home plate together with Pua off two more walks and a passed ball to up the Jets ad-



vantage to six, 17-11.

The Red Sox changed pitcher after giving up three runs, but that did not stop the Jets' juggernaut, as the next two batters scored off Kenny Diaz's triple with only one out. The Jets' top of the order went on to go for a second at bat and tucked in three more runs of two base hits and a Red Sox error. The hapless defending champions used three pitchers to end the agonizing inning, but it was second baseman Jonah Reye who finally did it with a double play, as he caught a line drive from Diaz and tagged Napu Pua out.

Now facing a double-digit deficit, the Red Sox were pressed to score at least five runs no avoid losing via mercy rule and force one more inning. However, the defending champions got only one run with second batter Luis Blas reaching home off a Jets error. Leadoff

See JETS on Page 26

MHS stretches win streak to five



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School started the second round of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Association Boys Basketball League with another victory against Eucon International School, 77-57, in their varsity game last Monday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins, who routed the Blazers in their first meeting, 82-52, reasserted their might against the latter to remain undefeated in five games and solidify its hold on the top spot in the five-team field. Eucon fell to a 2-3 record for third place behind Kagan High School and Saipan Southern High School, which hold similar 2-2 cards and start their second round campaign today when they collide in the second game.

Eucon suffered another bad beating from MHS after the latter caught the Blazers flatfooted in the third quarter. The Dolphins nearly matched their entire first-half output in the third quarter, firing 28 points to turn a 29-30 halftime deficit to a big 57-41 advantage.

Michael Yap anchored MHS' third-quarter stunner, as he knocked in three triples in the pivotal period. Four other MHS players contributed at least two baskets apiece in the uprising.

See MHS on Page 26

Yankees nose out North Stars in SBL



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Yankees batter waits for a pitch from the North Stars during their game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Yankees prevailed in a low-scoring game against the North Star, 2-1, in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yankees and the North Star played their first game of the season with the former joining early winner and defending champions Brewers, who dominated the Fielders, 22-2, during the league opener last Jan. 24.

Manny Cabrera, Kevin Kapileo, and Thomas Joab shut out the North Stars in the first eight innings to lift the Yan-

kees to victory. Cabrera started out for the Yankees, struck out four batters, and gave up only one hit in three innings, while stranding eight runners. Kapileo duplicated Cabrera's feat, striking out four and allowing only one hit in three innings pitched. Joab closed out for the Yankees and almost secured the shutout only if not for a wild pitch that enabled Dodet Feliciano to reach home in the ninth inning.

Feliciano was the second batter and hit a double to keep the North Stars' hopes alive, as they had only one out. Yankees first baseman Gary Cruz got the first

See YANKEES on Page 26

